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Kent on Sunday

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Crisis point for primary schools that are running out of places

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AN ACUTE shortage of primary school places over the next four years could push the education system to crisis point as the number of under-11 pupils looks set to reach staggering levels.

According to official Department for Education forecasts released by the Labour Party, a total of more than 9,500 extra places will be needed by 2015-16 in Kent and Medway – the equivalent of around 43 new schools based on an average-sized primary.

In Kent, predicted numbers showed a rise of 7,689 primary-aged children needing school placements and in Medway 1,967, bringing the total number to almost 140,000.

Shadow education minister Stephen Twigg criticised both the Coalition and previous Labour government for not planning ahead, as levels are expected to be at their highest since the 1970s nationally.

This is being blamed on rising birth rates and the effects of immigration.

Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read said he had continuously raised the issue with Kent County Council over the last three years.

"KCC denied there was a problem," he said.

"If they had taken action a few years ago the problem would not be so bad. Several years ago we didn't have a financial crisis and there was money around to address some of these issues; I'm not saying they could have solved them, but they could have addressed them.

"The second issue is there is evidence that where new developments have taken place, KCC has not pushed developers to deliver their legal obligation of

Continued on page 2

X FACTOR SWAGGER AS CHER PLAYS KENT

HIT MACHINE: X Factor star Cher Lloyd brings her first UK tour to county – **SEE INSIDE**

BUDGET

Furious attack on 'granny tax'

THE director general of Kent-based Saga has slammed Chancellor George Osborne's Budget as an "outrageous assault on decent middle-class pensioners".

Dr Ros Altmann said the 'granny tax' was a "dramatically unfair" attack on poorer and older people. **PAGE 3**

ENTERTAINMENT

County wins in Uni Challenge

KENT can claim to being the home of some of the brightest students in the country, after producing three contestants in this week's University Challenge final. One Kent man was on the winning team, but he was joined by the two losers when he met Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. **PAGE 9**

SPORT

Oyster boys in Lord's Final

WHITSTABLE Cricket Club have been crowned National Indoor six-a-side champions of England, after a resounding victory in the final at Lord's.

The oyster boys beat Blaydon by seven wickets in the final, despite being unused to the conditions at the St John's Wood ground. **PAGE 75**

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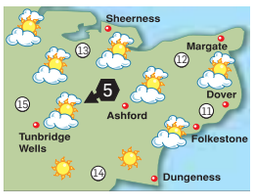

TODAY: Mist will lift to leave a fine and dry day with sunny spells. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells and patchy mist. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.18	6.6	13.36	6.4
Margate	02.19	4.8	14.39	4.5
St Mary's	07.06	5.5	19.20	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 18C	Min 3C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 3C
Thursday	Max 18C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 13C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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'How will parents get their little ones a good education?'

Continued from front page

providing additional primary placements."

Where a large number of new homes are built, developers are obliged under 106 agreements to provide financial contributions for the provision of services, such as schools.

Last year, Claremont Primary School in Tunbridge Wells was asked to take on an additional third entry class for September, 2011, in order to meet an "unprecedented and unexpected" increase.

The school was provided with a mobile classroom and funding.

In a letter to parents, headteacher Richard Sutton-Smith said KCC was reacting to immediate problems rather than actively planning the permanent expansion of some schools to meet increasing demand.

"I like to presume that none of you are short of a brain cell or two so, like us, you will be wondering whether the same thing will happen again in September, 2012," he wrote.

Mr Read said KCC's policy was to have only two form classes at entry, and so by adding a third it was going against its own rules.

Education experts said the high numbers of children and shortages of schools was one of the biggest problems facing the Government and that successive administrations should have taken action. Hotspots in the county include Thanet, Dartford, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Gravesham.

Labour spokesman for the county and former MP for Gillingham and Rainham, Paul Clark said it was children that would end up losing out.

"More children will be pushed into existing schools which will cause overcrowding, difficulties for children, pressure on teachers and problems for the kids that are our future," he said.

"This is not rocket science. You get birth statistics for every area in the country; it's not difficult to work out when those children will start school.

"My worry is the decision to cut deep and fast by the Government and their lack of planning ahead. The people that will lose out in Kent and Medway will be the children.

"The Government needs to deal with this problem, otherwise how will parents get their little ones a good education at the local school?"

A spokesman for Medway Council said: "There are more than 100 schools in Medway and the demand for school places in all these is affected by a number of factors including changes in the birth rate, people moving in and out of each individual area, and new housing developments.

"All these affect the demand for school places in Medway, but these changes are not necessarily the same in all parts of the area. The council is proposing to provide new school provision – which may include new schools – in Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham as they are are needed in specific areas in these towns due to growth in pupil numbers from factors including new housing developments."

KCC was unable to comment.

Children are casualties in game of school Monopoly

OPINION
BY PETER READ

Independent Education Adviser

INFORMATION from Kent County Council and Medway under Freedom of Information requests, reveals considerable change in the pattern of secondary school applications this year.

There is a considerable swing in grammar school assessments from east Kent to west, driven by parental pressure to secure grammar school places, and the intense coaching culture in west Kent which becomes self–fulfilling.

This is combined with pressure from children along the Kent boundary to the west and north west, and from London boroughs stretching through to Lewisham, with a total of 211 out-of-county children taking places in Kent grammar schools.

Not surprisingly there are many grammar-qualified Kent children without a grammar school place, predominantly girls in the south of the area, and boys in the north.

Thus the top seven oversubscribed grammar schools in Kent are all in the west, turning away an average of 90 children each.

Top this year is Skinners in Tunbridge Wells, rejecting a record 138 first-choice applicants, followed in order by: Dartford Grammar; Tonbridge Grammar; Dartford Girls; The Judd; Tunbridge Wells Girls; Tunbridge Wells Boys; and Weald of Kent.

What is not always realised is this is balanced by more than 300 children going the other way, mainly into comprehensive schools over the border.

The most oversubscribed grammar schools in Medway are Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School; Rochester; and Rochester Grammar School.

Another major issue arising from this tilt, is the number of vacant spaces in east Kent grammars led by Harvey Grammar, Folkestone, with 73, followed by Folkestone School for Girls. Then, in order: Highworth, Ashford; Clarendon House, Ramsgate; Barton Court, Canterbury; Mayfield, Gravesend; Borden, Sittingbourne; Chatham House, Ramsgate; and Highsted, Sittingbourne. Three others, Invicta Grammar and Oakwood Park Grammar both in Maidstone, and Wilmington Grammar Girls are full only because KCC has allocated children there, who were unsuccessful elsewhere.

Two Medway grammar schools, Chatham Boys and Chatham Girls have more than 100 spaces between them, as the number of children in Medway drops sharply.

What is clear is the 11-plus is failing able children in east Kent, and we can see these schools looking to different methods of assessing children, as already happens in the two Dover grammar schools, both full as a result.

Presumably, one can expect to see higher than normal success rates at appeal at many of these schools, as the balance is righted.

The most popular non-selective school remains Leigh Technology Academy, turning away 193 first choices, followed by Longfield Academy with 91.

The pressure on these schools is caused by lack of alternatives in the area, Dartford Technology College (girls) and Meopham School both having failed Ofsteds and there being no boys' non-selective school in the area. This explains why 100 Kent children went into non-selective schools in Bexley and Bromley.

There are three Kent schools with more than 90 vacancies: Pent Valley, Folkestone; Marlowe Academy, Broadstairs; and Chaucer, Canterbury.

A total of 12 non-selective schools in Kent had more than a third of their places empty.

In Medway, discrepancies are even starker: Bishop of Rochester Academy has the highest number of vacancies at 135, being over half empty.

This is followed by St John Fisher, Robert Napier, Strood Academy, and Hundred of Hoo. A key issue in Medway is the rapidly falling rolls which currently accounts for 14 per cent of all places being empty.

Government policy appears to be to encourage the free market in school places.

Looking at the picture in Kent one can see that before long we are going to see casualties of this policy in our secondary schools, some of which will be in shiny new academy buildings, costing tens of millions of pounds.

Never mind the children who of course are the real casualties of this game of Monopoly.

■ **For more details on this issue and other education matters go to www.kentavice.co.uk.**

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FILM

Harry Hill guest stars in spoof Third Man flick at seaside film festival

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BIG-COLLARED Kent comic Harry Hill has become one of the nation's favourite funnymen thanks to TV shows like TV Burp and You've Been Framed – but if you go to Margate you can see him as you've never seen him before.

The former William Harvey Hospital doctor, who grew up in Staplehurst, has as a cameo in a Third Man spoof movie which has been entered in Margate's comedy short film festival.

He made a appearance in a friend's film which has made the shortlist at this year's annual 2 Days Laughter Short Film Competition.

Beeping Bush Productions is once again bringing the sound of laughter back to the British seaside with its popular contest.

The team behind the successful 2 Days Later Short Horror Film Competition are setting their sights once again on making audiences scream with laughter, for the fifth time.

The festival gives film-makers, comedians and writers the chance to shine with their own five-minute comedy short put together with just 48 production hours and on a minimal budget.

Some 300 people made 40 films, and 20 have made the shortlist. In all 15 were from Kent, and 12 of those have been shortlisted.

Each film crew is given a list of items from which they had to include three in their mini-epics. The list was a mouse, rubber glove, wedding dress, an unusual sport, a current political event and the phrase: "I'm too tired to do that again!"

More than 350 entry forms were downloaded this year and films have come in from Cornwall to California.

Harry Hill makes a guest appearance in THE Thora HIRD Man; an anarchic comedy by the Whitstable film-making team of Nick Wilty and Maxine Pearson about the underground supply of fake lavender.

Nick said: "Harry has been a friend of mine for 20 years, and knew I entered last year. He was round my home and watched my last entry when he asked if he could be in the new one, which I immediately agreed.

"He loved it, and it would be nice if we could expand it to about half an hour and put it on the film festival circuit.

"I would love to make a British feature film.

"I asked Harry if he wanted me to change his name, but he wanted to be known as him.

"Also in the film are Shane Attwooll, one of the stars of Julian Fellowes' new Titanic TV series which will be on in April; plus Nick Wilton, the market inspector in EastEnders and the nude man in the Specsavers ad with Gordon Ramsey; plus Mark Arden who was in London's Burning and the 'bet he drinks Carling black label' ads a few years ago.

"They all live in Whitstable and wanted to help me make my little film for the festival after the fun that was had doing it last year."

Festival organiser Mick Etherton said: "It's going to be great free night out at the theatre for all, and a rare opportunity for comedians, film-makers and the public to come together and see how a live audience will react to their own films in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere."

■ **The shortlisted films are being shown at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Saturday, March 31. Tickets are free, but must be booked at www.2dayslaughter.co.uk.**

HAVING A LAUGH: TV star Harry Hill agreed to help old friend Nick Wilty with his anarchic comedy

NEWS IN BRIEF

New job for drug boats

TWO drug smugglers' boats, which were confiscated through the Proceeds of Crime Act, will be presented by the police to Kent Search and Rescue on Sunday.

The rigid dinghies will be handed over at a training day at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood.

Five men were sentenced to a total of 44 years behind bars after they were caught smuggling £1.5 million of cocaine from France onto Hythe Beach.

Injured dolphin beached

A BADLY injured dolphin had to be put down on Thursday after it was found on the shore at Westbrook Beach in Margate.

Experts tried to rescue the mammal, which is believed to have been caught up in a fishing net, but it was in such a poor physical state it could not be saved. The British Divers Marine Life Rescue team took the dolphin to the Zoological Society of London to carry out a post-mortem to investigate the circumstances that led to its beaching.

Oil theft lorry warning

POLICE are warning people living in rural areas to be on the look out for specially adapted vehicles being used to help steal heating oil.

More than 20 thefts of the fuel have been reported in the area around Ashford in the last few months, with two reported last week.

The vans have large containers in the rear and are often kitted out with pumping equipment.

Det Sgt Bill Thornton said: "The size of the pumps means that for several hundred litres of heating oil to be taken, a van would have to be parked and pumping for over half an hour."

ECONOMY

Budget is an 'outrageous assault on middle class pensioners' says furious Saga chief

THE chief of Saga has launched no-holds-barred attack on Chancellor George Osborne's Budget.

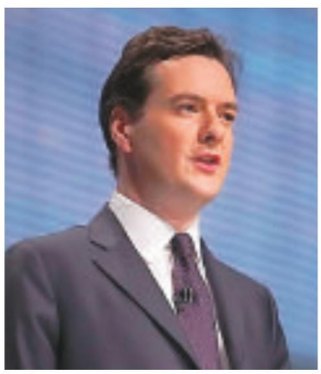
Speaking after the Mr Osborne presented his budget in the Commons, Dr Ros Altmann said she could not believe what she was hearing.

The director-general of Sangate-based Saga, which provides services for older people, said: "This is an outrageous assault on decent middle-class pensioners."

She said the very rich and very poorest pensioners have escaped, but those on middle ground have been hit hard.

Dr Altmann said: "This Budget contains an enormous stealth tax for older people. Over the next five years, pensioners with an income of between £10,000-24,000 will be paying an extra £3 billion in tax while richer pensioners are left unaffected.

"Because in this economy many younger people borrowed far too much and the banks got into trouble, the Government seems to believe it is right and fair to take money away from those who did do something to look after themselves, and use it to bail out younger borrowers and banks."



UNDER FIRE: Chancellor George Osborne

She added: "There is nothing in this Budget for savers, there is nothing to improve the annuity market, nothing to appease the damage of quantitative easing and nothing to support ISA changes and shelter older people's money in cash. This Budget is terrible news for pensioners.

"It is good to hear we will be able to harness the power of pension funds to improve UK infrastructure, but in short, this Budget is another shocking example of the Government's attack on poorer and older people.

"It is dramatically unfair."

She said credit easing should be scrapped and replaced with a system that fast-tracks money to small businesses, adding: "We should end the gilt-buying spree that has such dangerous consequences for our pension system and use any new money to set up a fund to lend or underwrite lending to improve growth and jobs prospects.

"Using any newly created money to underpin direct small company lending, bypassing the banks, would be far more effective than credit easing which still relies wholly on the banks to lend at decent rates."

■ **For full coverage of the Budget and the reaction of Kent's business community, turn to page 28.**

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OLYMPICS

As anticipation grows, here are 324 million reasons to love the Games

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE countdown has well and truly started for the London 2012 Games, with just four months to go until the eyes of the world fall on the South East.

Torchbearers and the final street-by-street details of where the iconic flame will travel have been announced and communities are being invited to welcome the torch on its relay through the county.

But aside from the pomp and ceremony the Olympics and Paralymics will undoubtedly bring to Kent – what other impact will the Games have and what legacy will they leave?

According to tourism body Visit Kent and County Hall chiefs, around £324 million. That's the figure Kent County Council and the tourism board is anticipating to gain in tourism alone.

A KCC report, discussed at a meeting this week, also revealed that businesses, including construction firms, media agencies and landscapers, had won 243 first tier contracts to deliver services during the Games – this makes up 23 per cent of all contracts in the South East.

And according to the head of the culture and sports group at KCC, Chris Hespe, the majority are small and medium-sized enterprises.

"This is putting the foundations in place to grow companies and have a long-lasting affect," he said. "All areas of Kent have seen companies benefit from these contracts."

Town hall chiefs were quick to stress it was the long-lasting legacy that was important.

Mr Hespe said: "This is the greatest show on Earth – it's the equivalent of having a G20 summit, two FA cups and a Wimbledon every day for two weeks in London.

"And this is all just nine-and-a-half minutes from Ebbsfleet, which gives us great opportunities, but also immense challenges.

ALIGHT: The Torch will spend three days here

"Work that has taken place over the last seven years since the announcement the Games were coming to London has looked to create a long-lasting legacy."

KCC has already been named as a Beacon Authority – one of only five in the UK – for its work securing a legacy by increasing participation in sport, regenerating communities, increasing participation in cultural and volunteering activities and engaging with young people.

Kent School Games, established in 2008 as the largest school sport competition in the UK and Europe, is expected to involve more than 30,000 pupils in 2012.

Kent is also officially a host county to the Paralympic Games after successfully securing the contract to accommodate the Paralympic road cycling event at Brands Hatch.

Six nations will also be training here in the run up to the Games – Australia, Belarus, Ukraine, Nepal, Slovenia and Papua New Guinea.

Mr Hespe said the focus had now turned from the legacy to getting ready for "Games time", adding: "This includes dressing up Kent, the welcome and making sure there is a real buzz."

But while the Games is expected to have a positive impact on the county, challenges, such as transport, have been acknowledged.

Mr Hespe said a "resilience plan" had been prepared to make sure the area can cope with the influx of visitors, the increase in traffic and the security and public safety implications.

Significant challenges include the potential congestion on major roads and at Ebbsfleet Station; car parking requirements at North West Kent and around other train stations; the implications of the Olympic Route Network on Kent through which east London roads could be taken out of action at short notice on a temporary basis; some airspace restrictions; and the likelihood of illegal camp sites being established.

But aside from the expected pressure on the transport system, Kent is gearing up for the exciting spectacle.

Celebrations are being planned for the overnight stopover of the torch in Dover and Maidstone, on July 18 and 19 respectively.

The ticketed events will be free and are expected to attract thousands of people.

■ **Go to www.kentnews.co.uk for details of every county street the torch will visit.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parking fees abandoned

CONTROVERSIAL pay and display parking restrictions will not be introduced in Shepway town centres after residents voted against the plans in a referendum.

Some 4,000 people also put their names to a petition against the proposal.

The decision means street parking will continue to be free in high streets in New Romney, Hythe, Sandgate, and Sandgate Road and Tontine Street in Folkestone.

Hospital's royal opening

THE Countess of Wessex has officially cut the opening ribbon at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital in Pembury.

Sophie Wessex visited the women's and children's department during the event on Thursday, and also met staff, parents and babies on the neonatal ward.

Her visit marked the official opening of the state-of-the-art hospital which began to treat patients last year.

Jail after heroin death

TWO men have been sentenced after the body of Jed Turner, 34 was discovered in a garden in St Teresa's Close, Ashford, in March, 2011. Ben Phillips, 33, of Smarden, was jailed for four years and eight months for manslaughter by gross negligence, possession of controlled drugs, and perverting the course of justice. John Allen, 58, of Kennington, got a 20-week suspended sentence for perverting the course of justice.

TORCH BEARERS

Pair are ready to carry the flame

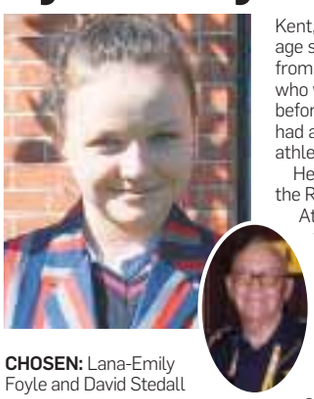
A SCHOOLGIRL who needed major heart surgery is one of the people who will carry the Olympic flame as it makes its way through the county on its way to the Games stadium in Stratford.

The flame will spend three days in the county – July 18-20 – and 8,000 people will carry the torch on its journey around the UK.

Candidates could be nominated by friends, work colleagues and schools. One successful runner is 14-year-old Lana-Emily Foyle, who is a sports scholar at Ashford School, and was nominated by her parents.

The keen sportswoman underwent major heart surgery in 2010 after collapsing at a national triathlon event.

He father Andrew Foyle said: "It was a terrifying moment for us. I picked her up and carried her in my arms to the St John Ambulance. She was almost unconscious and when the medic listened to her heart we knew something was wrong."



CHOSEN: Lana-Emily Foyle and David Stedall

The young runner, who at one time was ranked fifth in the national triathlon rankings, had a hole in her heart closed by surgeons at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

After her operation Lana took up athletics and pole-vaulting. Later this month she is off to Malta, training with Ashford Athletics Club.

Another torch bearer from Kent, at the other end of the age scale, is David Stedall from Ramsgate. Mr Stedall, who will be 70 three days before he carries the torch, has had a lifelong involvement in athletics.

He was a member of both the Rochester and Kent County Athletic boards, serving in various posts.

He also spent time in China after an earthquake in 2008 helping to give children in a refugee camp English classes.

Mr Stedall first saw an Olympic flame which the president of Rochester Athletics club had carried at the 1948 London Games.

He said: "He had a torch in his living room, and all those years ago, I held it. From then on, it was my dream to be able to carry the torch and now I can, in my own country for the London Olympics."

He will be running the St Lawrence leg in Thanet on July 19.

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CHARITY

Festival signs up music stars to raise funds for Princess Diana's old school

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of Kent's most unusual festivals takes place once again in the spectacular grounds of Princess Diana's old school.

Lawnfest will be in June and is supported by former Harrods owner Mohamed Al-Fayed, the father of the princess' lover, Dodi.

Headlining this year will be Mercury music prize nominees The Magic Numbers, and more acts will be announced soon.

In 2010 Madonna made an apperance at the event at the New School at West Heath, helping to boost the crowd.

Set in 32 acres, Lawnfest showcases plenty of up-and-coming talents, but prides itself on the activities away from the performance stage.

This includes an art exhibition with auctions of original and affordable works. The organisers say among exhibits will be photography and sculpture by some of the world's most exciting contemporary artists.

There will be a food shed and farmers' market with seasonal organic foods sourced from Canterbury farmers. Olympic menu-maker and chef to Hollywood's elite, Nicole Walshaw, will be preparing some dishes.

Teas will be served in vintage china along with homemade cakes, and scones and cream.

Organisers say every penny raised helps fund bursaries for children at West Heath School, a charity that uses education to rebuild the lives of emotionally traumatised children.

Camilla Al-Fayed from the Al Fayed Charitable Foundation, and daughter of Mohamed, said: "The foundation is honoured to help organise Lawnfest. It's an amazing one-day event, and what makes it even better is that all proceeds from Lawnfest go to fund bursaries at West Heath."

And school principal Christina Wells added: "Lawnfest is the biggest event on the school calendar. All the students are very excited.

"Our focus as a music, arts and food festival is proving to be very popular and we are hoping to have around 3,000 people attending this year.

"It is important to remember why we put this event on. It is to raise much-needed funds to enable vulnerable youngsters who are not currently funded by their local authority to be able to come to our school.

"Camilla Al-Fayed is very much at the helm in terms of the organisation of the event again this year and our charity is very dear to her heart."

The boutique festival for music, arts and food lovers at the New School at West Heath, Sevenoaks, is on Saturday, June 30, from 3-10pm. Children under eight go free; 9-16 year olds £10; adults £20; and family tickets (two adults and two children) £40.

For more details visit www.lawnfest.co.uk.

■ **More news at www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.**

Picture: SIMON FERNANDEZ

LAWNFEST: The Magic Numbers (right) will play at the festival at the old school of Princess Diana (left)

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Based On: SAP Calculations. Rates until April 2012

TOP MARKS: Bibek Mukherjee meets the Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House after the TV final

TELEVISION

Kent stars are winners and losers in the final of University Challenge

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT could stake a claim for being TV's brainiest county after having three contestants in the final of University Challenge.

One Kent student was on the winning team, and two were on the beaten side in the show screened on BBC Two this week.

The University of Manchester took the title for the third time in seven years, beating Pembroke College, Cambridge by 180-135, their lowest score of the series.

The team received their trophy from the Duchess of Cornwall, at a special presentation ceremony held at Clarence House to mark the 50th anniversary of the show.

The Duchess described herself as the show's "greatest fan" and spent time chatting with both teams, as did quiz host Jeremy Paxman.

When Camilla told Newsnight host Paxman: "I thought the questions were unbelievably difficult", it was a typically acid-tongued sarcastic reply from the broadcaster: "Well, that's intentional, you know."

Admitting she has watched the programme from its outset with Bamber Gascoigne, the Duchess said: "I think it's a family programme. I think all ages can watch it, everybody can join together and answer the questions, and I think it also shows how wonderful the youth are today and how many clever people there are out there.

TOUGH LUCK: Ed Bankes and Bibek Mukherjee

"They give young people a very good name."

On Manchester's victorious team, chosen from the 120 entrants, was PhD history student Luke Kelly, 24, from Ashford. He was joined by Tristan Burke, Michael McKenna, and Paul Joyce.

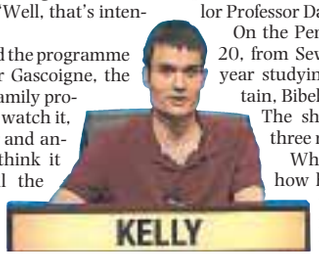
A spokesman for the university said: "Luke is the quiet one on the team and had a great time celebrating the win. We are all proud of them."

The team's remarkable achievement will be recognised with a celebration at the university in April, hosted by the president and vice chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell.

On the Pembroke team were Ed Bankes, 20, from Sevenoaks, who is in his second year studying English and the team captain, Bibek Mukherjee, from Whitstable.

The show was watched by around three million people.

When the Duchess asked Bibek how he was selected, he said: "Oh, this is quite funny, I think. We flipped a coin and I managed to get lucky."



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AGRICULTURE

Farmers praise scientists' work to tackle sheep virus

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AT RISK: The virus affects the unborn lamb, leading to deformity or stillbirth

LEADING figures in the agricultural industry have visited the laboratory where scientists have been tackling the Schmallenberg virus – the disease carried by midges from the Continent, which is killing unborn lambs.

And among the delegation was a leading Romney Marsh sheep farmer.

The virus has hit farms across the county and South East. Taking its name from the German town in which it was first detected, it is believed to have been carried across the Channel by midges. The virus affects ewes, with their lambs being either deformed or stillborn. Some farms reported 10 to 20 per cent of their lambs being affected.

The condition poses no risk to human health, nor can it be spread among infected animals.

As of earlier this week, the latest figures show Kent remains the worst hit in the country by the outbreak. The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency listed that 32 sheep and three cows had tested positive.

A delegation from the National Farmers' Union visited the leading UK research body – the Institute for Animal Health at Pirbright in Surrey – studying livestock diseases to hear of progress in understanding the virus.

Howard Bates is the NFU South East livestock board chairman, and went on the tour. From his sheep farm on Romney Marsh, he said: "We were delighted to hear how UK scientists are working with their European colleagues and there has been rapid progress.

"There is a diagnostic test to detect the virus in midges and animals and only this week, IAH received news that colleagues elsewhere have developed a test that may be suitable for detection of antibodies in the blood of animals."

Also on the tour was NFU president Peter Kendall and NFU vice president Adam Quinney.

They met experts at the facility which is undertaking research to see whether the virus can replicate within midges and to understand the insects' ability to pass it on. The institute will use data, including weather measurements and maps, to understand how the spread.

Mr Kendall said: "This invaluable work is another example of how dependant we are on the scientific community."

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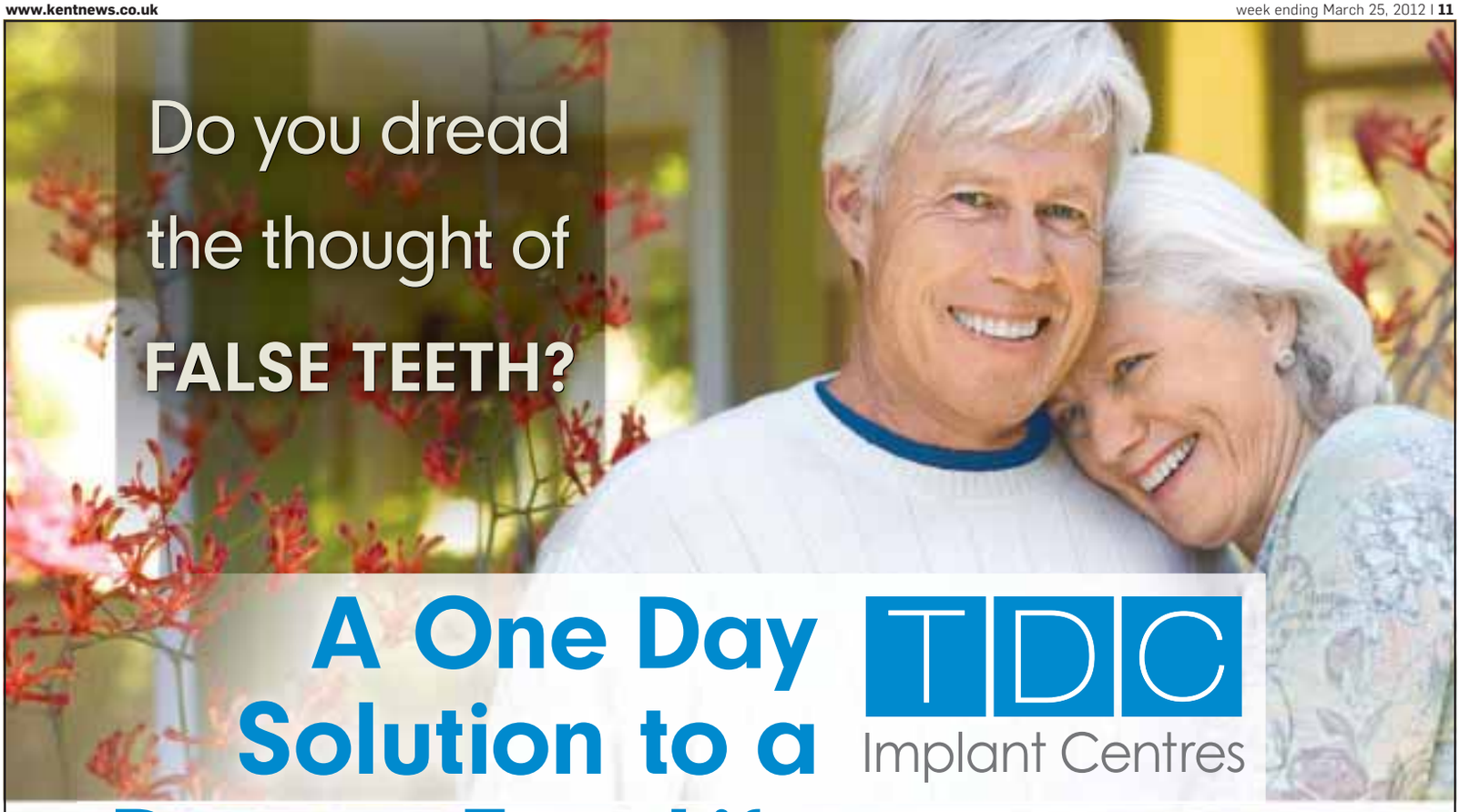

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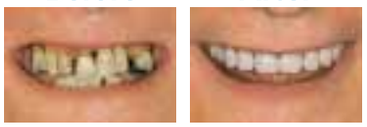

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News

CRIME

'Heritage crime robs us of our history' warns top cop

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SENIOR Kent police officer seconded to English Heritage said he is determined to make a difference and protect Britain's history for generations to come.

A nationwide survey by the organisation found attacks on historic buildings are rising with metal being a prime target due to the high price for scrap.

The survey shows a worrying rate of damage across Kent – in fact one in five people with a responsibility for a heritage building in the county has suffered some sort of crime.

Of those, metal thefts make up more than three per cent.

The councils in Dover and Canterbury, both rich in heritage buildings, have signed a memorandum of understanding which details responsibilities between English Heritage, Kent Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Kent police chief inspector Mark Harrison is national policing advisor at English Heritage.

He said: "Heritage crime robs us of our history. Beautiful buildings are scarred forever, places we treasure and enjoy lose their identity and appeal.

"Evidence about our past is lost and tourism suffers, not to mention the burden on owners to repair and put things right.

"We owe it to future generations to take action against the minority whose actions are causing irreversible damage."

He said local history societies, amenity groups, neighbourhood watch and residents associations should all do their bit to raise awareness of the risk in their area. This includes architectural theft, criminal damage, illegal metal detecting, graffiti, vehicle nuisance and arson.

> **We owe it to future generations to take action against the minority causing damage**
> MARK HARRISON, KENT POLICE

In the last two years, English Heritage has assisted in more than 150 criminal cases including a major raid in April, 2011, in Ramsgate and Gravesend when officers arrested two men on suspicion of stealing a cannon and other nautical items from the historic wreck of HMS London.

The organisation has also provided courts with impact statements. In Folkestone, a court sentenced the man who sprayed graffiti on Folkestone viaduct to 15 months in a Young Offenders' Institution.

And two thieves who stole metal from Folkestone Grammar School were sentenced to nine and five months in jail.

Dr Andy Brown, English Heritage south east planning director, said: "Damage done can often not be put right and centuries of history will be lost forever."

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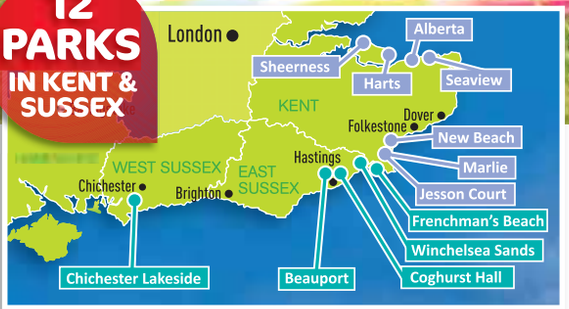

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News

ROADS

80mph speed limit could be tested on a stretch of M20

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PART of the M20 in Kent could be earmarked for testing the Government's proposed new 80mph limit.

It has long been argued that the current maximum speed limit of 70mph is out of date and slows traffic too much.

Advances in vehicle safety and technology has led government to think that modern-day cars are capable of handling the extra speed safely, and with more efficient braking systems, are also able to stop much more quickly, too.

There is a plan for a full public consultation on the idea of raising the limit, and the Government wants the limit in place early next year if there is enough backing for it.

Now, it is examining motorways across the UK for sites to test the new limit.

Areas already with variable limits make sense as the large matrix signs can easily display the limit for all to see. And zones with average speed cameras may also be used.

ZONE: M20 fits testing criteria

The M20 between junctions four and seven, Larkfield to Detling, meets all these criteria.

Road minister Mike Penning said: "The argument, which will be in the public consultation, is what we enforce over 80mph. The answer will be that 80mph will be the speed limit, and not, as we interpret it today, perhaps 90mph."

The 70mph limit was introduced in 1965, and since then fatalities have fallen by 75 per cent.

In the trial, when the road is quiet, limits can be increased and traffic pace monitored, and lowered in rush hours.

Those against the planned move worry more speed will equal more crashes.

Deputy chief executive of anti-speed campaign group, Brake, Julie Townsend, said: "This is a gamble with people's lives. It is hard to see the logic behind this trial when the potential benefits of 80mph limits are so questionable."

But the AA was more open-minded. Its head of road safety Andrew Howard told KoS: "Two thirds of our members are in favour of the increase.

"Many of them say if the limit of 80 really does mean 80, they will be happy. If it means drivers can do 90, they won't be happy.

"We still need a lot of clarification on how the 80 will be policed. We would prefer it to be 80 and no faster speeds allowed. It is a complex matter."

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News

CRIME

Seven years for hit-and-run driver who mowed down a police officer

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER who knocked over a police officer has been sentenced to seven years.

Stephen John Fahri, 30, of no fixed abode, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after pleading guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent to resist arrest, and dangerous driving.

Fahri received six years and four months for the charge of grievous bodily harm, and an eight-month sentence for dangerous driving, which will run concurrently to the GBH sentence.

He also received an eight-month sentence for a previous offence of fraud, which will run consecutively.

On December 9, 2011, an officer on patrol was hurt when he approached a young man who was about to drive out of Springfield Road onto the A26, London Road in Southborough.

The officer stood in front of the car, which drove at him, with the officer ending up on the bonnet.

The car sped towards Tonbridge leaving officer lying unconscious in the road about 300 metres from where the incident occurred.

Following a large-scale operation – including an appeal on the BBC's Crimewatch – on January 3, Fahri was arrested in Coulsden, Surrey.

The officer struck by the car was not seriously injured and hopes to return to duty in the near future.

CHARITY

Triathlon fundraiser

THE first ever Maidstone Triathlon will take place on Sunday, June 24, to raise money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

The sprint distance event, consisting of a 400m swim across Leybourne Lake, a 26km cycle around and through Maidstone town centre, followed by a 5k run around Mote Park, is open to competitors of all ages and abilities.

Organisers are hoping for around 500 people to sign up to the event.

POLICING

A new sheriff in town

AN officer with 25 years of policing experience is to head up policing in Maidstone town centre.

Insp Mark Hutcheon has joined the team from Sevenoaks, where he was responsible for the community safety unit in the area.

He replaces Insp Dave Coleman, who has moved to become the neighbourhood inspector in Swanley. Insp Coleman was was dubbed 'the sheriff' by local business owners, in recognition of his no-nonsense style of policing.

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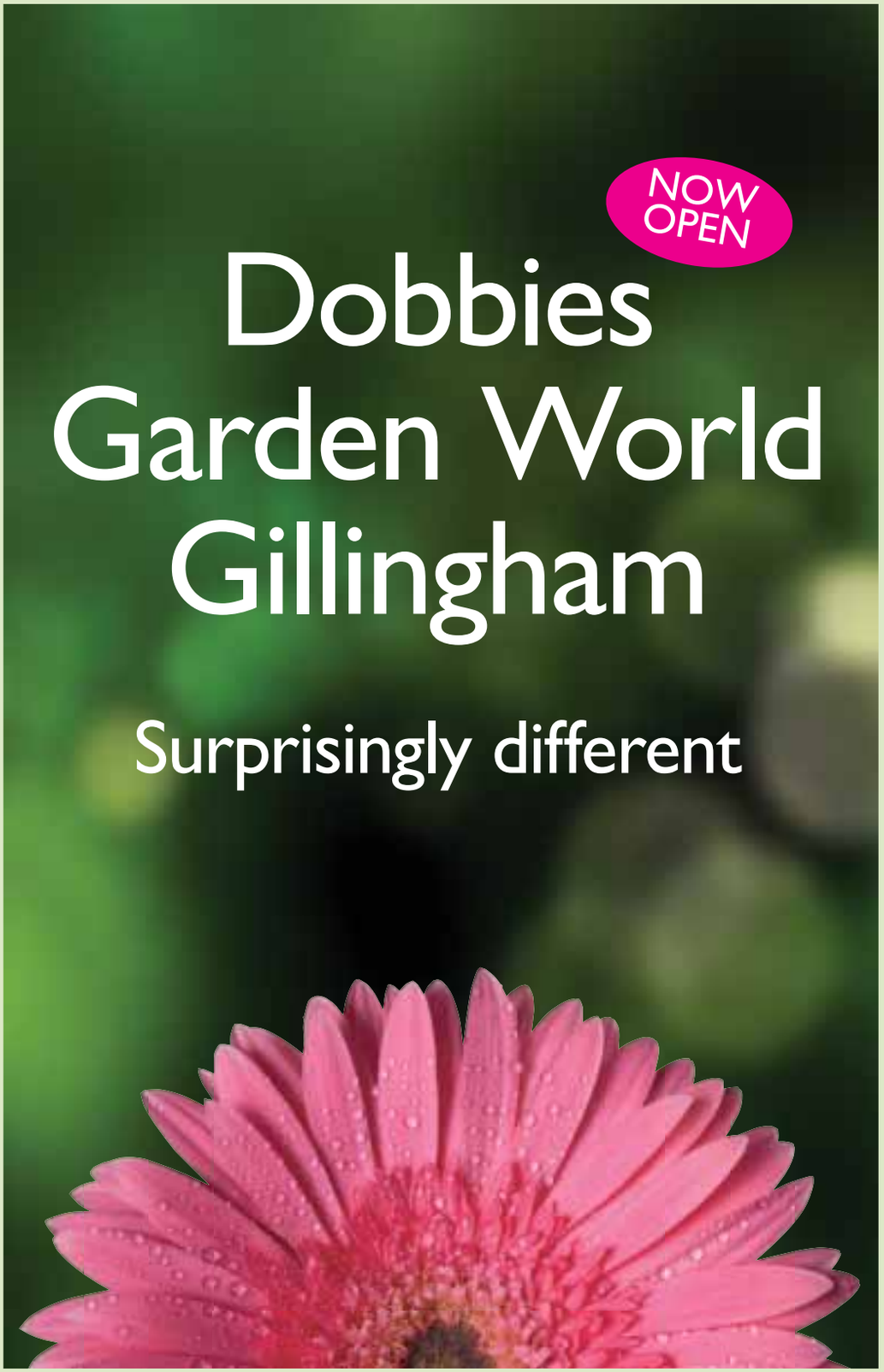

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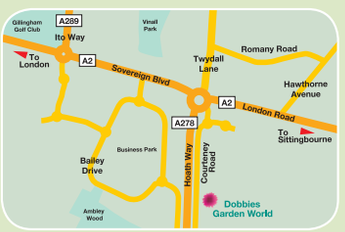

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VISUALISING: Two of the designs submitted for the proposed art installations on the cycle route

ART

Public given artistic licence to choose cycle path design

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE residents of Tunbridge Wells have been given the chance to voice their views on a series of art installations the council wants built on a cycle route through the town – plus one more mystery site.

In all, five artists have put forward a total of six ideas for the two sites made public so far. One artist has been shortlisted twice with two separate works.

The two site are the Grassy Knoll – a small, grassed mound on the north side of Grosvenor Bridge before the entrance to Grosvenor Park; and Dowding Way to Barnetts Wood at North Farm – the entrance to the cycle path where it leaves the retail park and runs up to the nature reserve.

Models of the proposed pieces of art have gone on display at the Gateway for people to view and comment on them.

There is one more site which has not been secured yet as the landowner has still to give their permission. Tunbridge Wells council say once this has been agreed another consultation will be held.

The council said it has secured external funding for the works on the popular cycle and footpath that connects the centre of Tunbridge Wells to its retail park and nature reserve.

Artists that have so far put forward ideas for the Dowding Way site include Animate Arts, a collective of artists and performers, who specialise in connecting and involving communities in high-quality art experiences.

They propose to work with the Friends of Barnetts Wood nature reserve and a local primary school to make a tree arch fusing the natural and built environment through its imagery.

Then there is Joseph Hillier, a sculptor who works with figures and abstract shapes. His proposal is to make a steel figure made up from circular and triangular components.

These components represent nature and the manufactured elements of life which cross over at the site.

And finally Tony Stallard, who has been working since the 1980s with light and metal. His proposal recreates broom flowers on a large scale.

These flowers gave their name nearby High Brooms.

Mr Stallard has also put forward a different work for the Grassy Knoll, along with Richard Perry, who has also been a sculptor since the 1980s and has developed a tactile sculpture in a red sandstone with a ripple-effect relief.

We Made That is an architecture and design studio established in 2006, which wants to install a 'civic stoop' consisting of a stone stairway leading skywards to encourage people to stop, look at their surroundings and chat.

The stairway would be embellished with text developed with a community group.

■ **To have your say on the designs, go to the Gateway and fill in a comments slip.**

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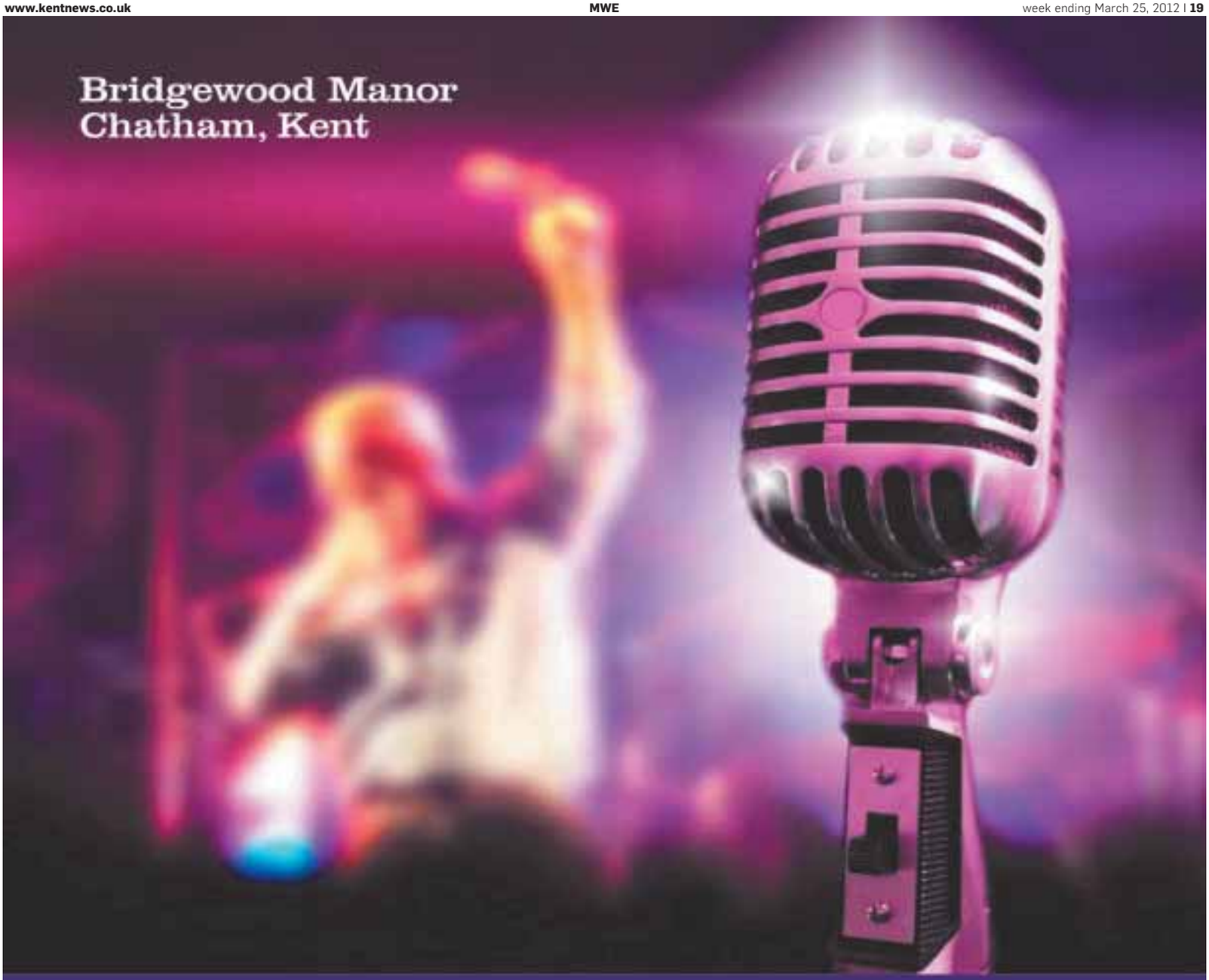

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News

HEALTH

Diabetes patient at forefront of insulin treatment dies

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

INSULIN has been a lifesaver for millions of diabetes sufferers, and one of the patients who pioneered the treatment has died.

Sheila Thorn, from Tunbridge Wells, was 81 when she died this week, said Diabetes UK. She was believed to the world's longest surviving insulin-dependent person with diabetes.

Mrs Thorn was diagnosed Type 1 diabetes as a baby in Canada, and found herself in the care of Dr Frederick Banting, one of the discoverers of insulin, and was immediately given the 'miracle' treatment.

Mrs Thorn's media work helped raise awareness of diabetes and the many comments left on the Diabetes UK Facebook page confirm the high regard in which she was held, and how her life story had touched numerous people with and without the condition.

Her funeral was held at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium.

Mrs Thorn arrived in the UK when she was just six because her parents wanted her educated in a British school.

Famed science-fiction writer and Sandgate resident HG Wells founded the British Diabetic Association together with Dr RD Lawrence at King's College Hospital, in London. It later became Diabetes UK.

And Mrs Thorn became the first child treated by the doctor.

She once said: "In those days, not many people knew anything about diabetes so I say I was lucky because I was in the right place at the right time to have been treated by someone at the forefront of diabetes treatments. "

And of the medical advancements over the decades, she said: "I've seen a lot of changes in the way people use insulin and these days I use an insulin pump to control my own condition. I'm thrilled to see people with diabetes can live long and happy lives for generations to come thanks to this treatment."

Insulin is used to regulate blood glucose levels, and has been heralded as one of the greatest medical advances of the 20th century, with millions now using it.

It was 1922 when Dr Banting discovered insulin and successfully proved its positive effect.

Diabetes UK president Richard Lane, also a Kent resident, knew Mrs Thorn well, and said: "She was a good friend of Diabetes UK and only a few weeks ago, she did media interviews on our behalf, we are very sorry to hear of her death."

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire alarms test plea

KENT Fire and Rescue Service are using the clocks going forward this weekend to remind people to take a moment to test their smoke alarms. The firefighters' message is: "We all lose an hour's sleep this weekend – make sure you don't lose a lot more". There were 677 accidental home fires in Kent and Medway last year, which resulted in two deaths and 77 injuries.

RECORDINGS: The History and Library Centre

HERITAGE

How you can make your own story a part of Kent's history

By Marijke Cox
marjke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT is home to some of the most celebrated history in the UK – from the bravery of the men who fought in the Battle of Britain over the Dover Straits, to the Peasants' Revolt more than 500 years earlier.

Now there is a chance for residents to inject their own piece of history into Kent's colourful heritage with fascinating stories and photographs from the past.

To mark the upcoming launch of the new state-of-the-art History and Library Centre in Maidstone, members of the public are being invited to reveal their own tales and pictures, whether it be a wartime family photo or poignant memories of a historical event, as part of the What Kent Means to Me Project.

KoS has teamed up with Kent County Council to encourage readers to get involved.

And the most interesting could feature as part of this newspaper's popular Kent Remembered series, as well as being part of the first display at the new History and Library Centre, which opens its doors at 9am on Monday, April 23.

A KCC spokeswoman said the focus was "making your history part of Kent's history".

"Local residents are invited to scan and email their photographs to historyandlibrarycentre@kent.gov.uk and show what Kent means to them," she said.

"It might be a photo of family, a building or place, anything that represents how you feel about the county. Alternatively, you can bring along your photo to your local library who will scan in the photo for you."

The centre will boast a library and archives facility which will replace the Centre for Kentish Studies, East Kent Archives, County Central at Springfield and St Faith's libraries.

"Kent has a wealth of documents, photographs, maps and records about the county's history, but to make sure they survive for future generations, they need to be kept in carefully controlled conditions," said the KCC spokeswoman.

"The new centre has been purpose built to protect and display many more archives than has ever been available to the public.

"There will be around 14km of historic material relating to Kent, dating back to 699AD and it will be the place to come for anyone interested in local history.

"There will also a community history area, where visitors will be able to explore their local and family history. There will be a large space for displays and events as well as a research room."

The centre will also boast a library with 40,000 books, IT services, and meeting rooms.

Send pictures and stories to historyandlibrarycentre@kent.gov.uk.

■ **For all the very latest news and pictures visit www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

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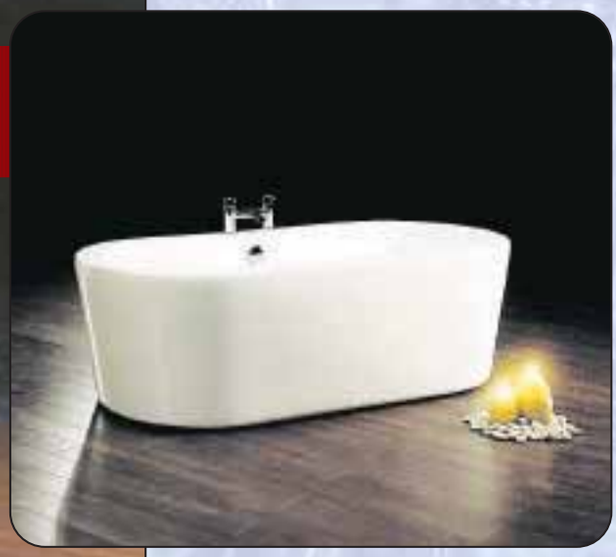

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Tracking the golden age of steam travel

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW book which takes readers on a train journey across Kent during the golden age of steam railways has just been published.

Rex Conway's Southern Steam Journey Volume Two uses the author's archive of black and white photographs to recreate travelling from Victoria Station in London, down to Folkestone, Ramsgate and Ashford via Medway and Swale.

It tells of a time when the railways reached places where stations have now been closed for almost 60 years.

Mr Conway, who is an archivist and historian, has a collection of more than 65,000 images of the days of steam trains, having taken a total of 25,000 himself from the 1950s onwards.

The book, published by The History Press, includes photographs of locomotives on the line heading for Ashford and includes details of a recreated trip around its railway sheds and workings.

The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch small steam railway is featured, as is the South Eastern and Chatham Railway which ran a service from Victoria to Paris, starting at 11am.

This rolling stock was upgraded when Southern Railway came into operation and Pullman cars introduced as a more 'exclusive' sort of passenger was catered for. A ferry-boat called the Canterbury was built and took the carriages across the Channel.

DIFFERENT ERA: The book looks at a time when steam trains were the only way to travel

The branch line to Lydd, which is no longer in use by passenger trains, is also featured, with a picture of the now abandoned town station.

The imaginary journey runs to Ashford across the Marsh.

Mr Conway writes: "Ashford apart from having a large locomotive works... is also a major junction.

"The line from Brighton which we have just arrived on is one of three main lines that arrive from the south – the others being the Folkestone and Dover lines. The other main line is from Canterbury, while going west from Ashford is a direct line to Tonbridge.

"The final junction is to Maidstone totalling five lines meeting in Ashford, a railway enthusiast's dream."

Despite the cutbacks to services over the past decades all five of these routes still run – the direct service to Brighton being reintroduced seven years ago.

This historic route first opened on February 13, 1851. Recommended for closure by Dr Richard Beeching in 1963, the route has survived various attempts to axe services completely, and stations remained unmodernised and gas-lit well into the 1970s.

The wide cuts made across the network resulted in their instigator becoming one of the most unpopular figures in the history of public transport.

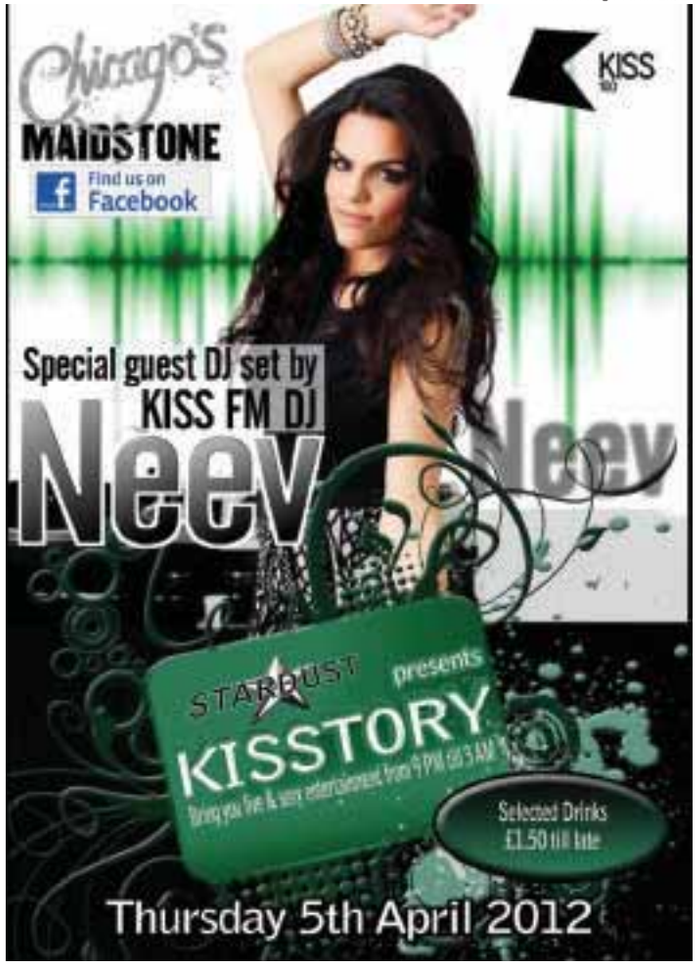
Dr Beeching's brief as chairman of the British Transport Commission was simple: "Make the railways pay."

British Rail was losing £140m a year when he took over the commission and his solution, announced on March 27, 1963, was straightforward – massive cuts.

The Conservative government welcomed the report, but thousands of people – many in remote rural areas – were horrified they would lose their local branch lines. Opposition from the pressure groups failed and during the 1960s "Beeching's Axe" fell on 2,128 stations and more than 67,000 British Rail jobs.

The book documents the highpoint of the railways – before the cuts – and the rail line between Folkestone and Dover also receives attention.

Mr Conway states: "We are running by the sea again, looking gloriously blue in the summer sunshine, but not for long though, as our train will soon be into the Abbotscliffe Tunnel which is more than a mile long. When we emerge into daylight again it will be the White Cliffs on our left as we slow for our stop at Dover."



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OPINION

Day we knew it was just a game

Reporter **Joe Bill** recounts finding himself just yards away from the terrible scene of footballer Fabrice Muamba suffering a heart attack

THE term 'everything has been put into perspective' is over-used. But never has it been more fitting than at 6pm on Saturday, March 17, 2012.

Midway through the lambasting of another refereeing decision, Tottenham fans turned to face Fabrice Muamba as he slumped to the floor.

The realisation of the situation was almost immediate. With his hands crumpled under his body, 36,000 people knew there was something very wrong with the Bolton number six.

Just 20 yards from our seats, Spurs Luka Modric could be seen frantically gesturing to the dugouts. Bolton physios and Tottenham medics raced to the player's side and tried to place him in the recovery position.

As stretcher men and paramedics raced across the pitch, the panic of the situation became clear and the stadium fell silent. A sickening whimper from the crowd went up as it became clear paramedics were pumping away at Muamba's chest trying to bring the player back to life.

Superstars slumped to the turf, while parents turned their children's faces away.

The stricken player's midfield partner Nigel Reo-Coker walked over to the Spurs fans just in front of me with tears streaming down his face.

Two more medics appeared carrying a defibrillator.

As Muamba's body kicked up from the electric pulse, the silence broke and a deafening roar went up; it was like a goal had been scored, in the sense it was spontaneous, there was no-one conducting this choir.

The shouts of "come on, come on!" were as upsetting as the scene in front on me.

It was pure desperation of the 36,000 people urging Muamba to move, to be okay, to give those around him a sign there was still hope.

As the minutes ticked by silence drew in again before the cries of Muamba's name started in the Bolton section. This was echoed around the stadium until all were singing his name, urging him to stay alive.

It was the most surreal and uplifting feeling knowing everyone wanted the same thing, but at the same time it was the most horrific thing anyone had seen on a football pitch.

The medics continued to work on Muamba as he was loaded onto the stretcher and carried away. Almost 10 minutes had passed since he had hit the floor. They were some of the longest minutes in my life.

Fifteen minutes later it was announced the game had been abandoned. The faces on of some of those burly men walking out of White Hart Lane said all you needed to know about how they were feeling.

In the street people gathered around cars for radio news, but nothing was conclusive.

Almost 10 minutes had passed since he had hit the floor. They were some of the longest minutes in my life

Fans are often criticised for their behaviour, their chants and their blinkered view of football, but for me that was the day football changed.

It is sad it has taken a horrible incident like this to get people to wake up, but I have no doubt the game will be a little more clear now. Money, transfers, the England captaincy, which footballer is having an affair... none of it means anything when someone's life is on the line.

I don't like the phrase 'football family', but from the outpouring of support from social networking sites, other football teams and the wider world, you can tell people finally realised it is indeed 'just a game'.

I hope that day goes down in history for the right reasons. I know I will never be able to go to see Tottenham Hotspur without looking at the piece of turf where Muamba fell and thinking, just thinking.

KOS COMMENT

Economy set to get Olympic gold medal

NOW the final details of the Olympic Torch's route through the county have been revealed, we know where to line up to watch it fly past.

All the lucky torchbearers have been told where they are to start and finish. Let's hope they will bring a few family and friends along to spend money in the shops and cafes along the course.

The financial benefit of the Olympics is hard to ignore. Kent County Council estimates it will bring in around £324m to help boost the local economy.

Visit Kent hopes it will act as a showcase to highlight all our best attractions to foreign visitors, not just this year but in years to come.

It would be good to see some of the cash being used to support sport as well.

Motorway madness?

THE Government could choose a stretch of the M20 to be one of the first in the country to get an 80mph speed limit.

Selecting one of Kent's busiest motorway sections should be a good test. It's often hard to get up to the current speed limit during rush hour, especially around the maze of junctions near Maidstone.

Feedback

Letters/emails/texts

Sunset taken near Canterbury by Rita Keatley, from Canterbury

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Town in need of leadership

URGENT action is needed in light of figures that show Shepway had the third worst rate of business failures anywhere in the coutry.

According to research carried out by Experian for the BBC, 1,300 businesses in Shepway have closed in the last two years.

This means the area's businesses have declined by 7.8 per cent year-on-year, falling from 8,253 in 2010, to 6,951 in 2012. Only Hounslow in west London and Knowsley, near Liverpool, have seen greater rates of decline. The research looked at evidence of growth, or otherwise, in every local authority area in England.

Keeping fingers crossed and merely hoping for a new nuclear reactor at Dungeness or leaving the De Haan Trust to regenerate Folkestone is no longer good enough.

This Shepway-wide crisis needs leadership and new ideas, neither of which have been displayed by our local political leaders.

It needs a major push for green jobs and support for existing local business, as well as measures to encourage and nurture start-ups.

Instead, we have the proposed parking charges which will have completely the opposite impact.

Martin Whybrow, Shepway Green Party

Don't get hung up on words

IN HIS patronising letter (KoS, March 18) , it took Geoffrey Clark quite a while to get to his real reason for writing – he wants a referendum on 'gay marriage'.

Why? We don't need one.

If two people of the same sex want to be able to commit to a 'marriage', why should anyone be opposed to it?

I cannot understand why some people are getting so exercised by this issue.

The fact the word 'marriage' has been traditionally used to describe the union of a man and a woman is irrelevant.

Language is a dynamic thing, changing and evolving; and the development to move beyond the term 'civil partnership' to describe as marriage two people of the same sex entering into a legally recognised union, is part of that process.

If we didn't accept that language moves with the times we might still be using the word 'gay' to describe a man as a 'dashing gay blade'.

It's now never used in that context and probably never will be again, so I would say to those critics of this proposal, stop getting so hung up on a word.

I'm now in my 41st year of 'marriage' and if people of the same sex want to join me in making that commitment, good luck to them. I hope the day comes soon when they can do so.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maisdstone

Where should line be drawn?

MARRIAGE dates back to historical times, pre-dating modern religion, and during this time the definition and parameters of marriage have changed several times.

Who exactly is Mr Clark to demand this never changes again?

I also have concern over Mr Clark's definition of marriage.

Procreation is not the only reason for marriage; many people procreate without being married or even knowing the name of the other parent.

And some couples get married with no intention of having children, or being physically unable to do so due to health or age reasons.

Are these marriages an aberration? What if a homosexual couple want to raise children? If one out of two is okay, then surely homosexual couples who want to raise children should be permitted.

Or should heterosexual couples be subject to fertility tests and be legally obliged to have procreated within a certain time span in order to be eligible for marriage?

Should marriages be dissolved after the woman experiences the menopause or a hysterectomy, or if for any reason they are unable to produce any further children?

I despair that Mr Clark feels that equality is detrimental to Britain's people and wonder how he feels he can speak as a representative of people he clearly feels to be inferior with the majority of his words.

Drew J Smith, Gillingham

Site closure is waste of time

I AM writing to voice my opposition to the proposed closure of the Richborough Household Waste Site. I was present at the first public meeting of the Richborough Recycling Action Group.

At the meeting it was determined a campaign to reverse a decision to close the facility will be mounted, an issue that Kent County Council were deciding on this week.

The closure of the site will impact on Sandwich, Deal, large parts of Thanet and the surrounding villages.

The closure of any site, given that there are relatively few, will both reduce the chances of meeting recycling targets and encourage fly-tipping.

The Richborough location serves a wide catchment area and there are no neighbours who are affected in terms of traffic noise, smell, vermin, etc.

Closing Richborough will increase queuing in other centres to the detriment of residents there.

Rather than seeking to close recycling facilities, KCC should be working to improve the performance and accessibility of recycling facilities throughout the county.

Steve Wood, Sandwich

On the road to rack and ruin

DAVID Cameron is reported as considering options such as road pricing and privatisation, claiming that our roads "need more private investment".

They don't. Britain's drivers pay around £50 billion a year in taxes, and under a fifth gets spent on road repairs.

A surplus of something like £400bn has been paid since 1997, so morally investment has been paid for several times in advance. Around £10bn would be enough to tackle the disgrace of potholes, but for some reason we can't invest enough in decent roads – whereas we can build roads for other developed countries.

A recent report on the Highways Agency suggested commercialising it, and revealed eye-watering perks for management in return for making even more money out of the public.

Our roads are a vital asset and they should stay in public hands – and receive proper investment. Say 'No' to this highway robbery.

Brian Mooney, Fair Deal for the Motorist Campaign

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General welcome for Osborne's recognition of a thriving region

Budget 2012

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CHANCELLOR George Osborne's recognition of the need for a prosperous South East and his stated commitment to increasing Britain's exports have been largely applauded by Kent's business community.

However, some analysts have said that he needs to do more to cut back barriers to growth and allow investment in the county's infrastructure if business is to prosper.

Osborne put himself forward as the champion of British business in a Budget that he said would help the country "earn its way in the world".

Setting out a series of business-support policies – which he said should help to double exports to £1 trillion a year – he said: "Do we have the national resolve to say 'No, we will not be left behind – we want to be out in front'?"

Among these were plans to slash corporation tax in a bid to improve economic growth.

Osborne said that he would cut the amount of tax that firms paid on profits from 26 per cent to 24 per cent – double the reduction previously announced.

The cut will come into effect in April and the intention is to drop the rate further, to just 22 pence in the pound by the end of his Government's term in office.

The Chancellor said exports had declined over the last 10 years and that Britain exported more to Ireland than to Brazil, China, Russia and India combined.

Andrew Aves, development manager of the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation Of Small Businesses, said: "Exports is something we are very keen to encourage, as are other bodies such as the Invicta Chamber of Commerce and Kent County Council.

"We in Kent are in an ideal position to do so, with our close proximity to the Continent.

"Likewise good to hear was Mr Osborne's recognition of the need for the South East to be successful. That was music to our ears, as the Government just cannot assume the area will look after itself."

Rodger Broad, director of the Institute of Directors South, said: "While any tax reduction is welcome, the Chancellor has not done enough to free business from the burdens and barriers that are holding economic growth back.

"Businesses dearly want the opportunity to invest, create and build, but George Osborne must go much further if he wants to fire up the engines of the economy.

"There was a bold move on corporation tax, but in the bigger picture this is still not far enough or fast enough.

"Smaller firms will welcome moves to tax them on the amount of cash passing through the business rather than the methods used for larger companies.

"We would have also liked to see the National Insurance holiday, which has had such little take-up in the north of the country, offered to business in the South East.

"We await with interest the Government's review of airport capacity in the South East. We recognise the urgent need to expand capacity, but that must go hand in hand with substantial investment in other infrastructure to support that expansion."

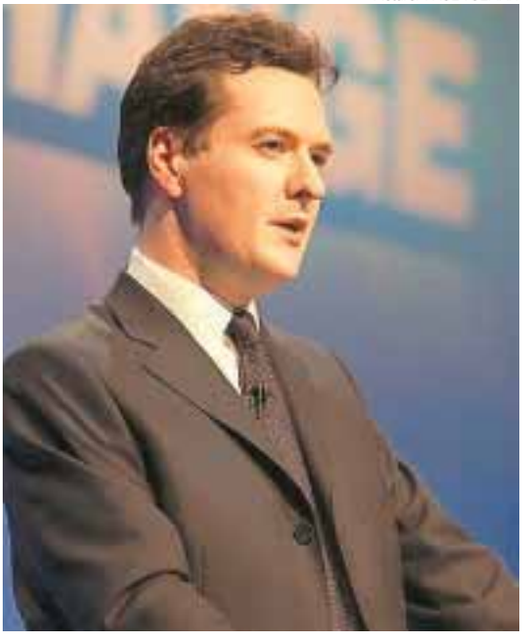
The Chancellor said the independent Office For Budget Responsibility now expected economic growth to be slightly higher, at 0.8 per cent this year, up from 0.7 per cent in its autumn forecasts.

However, next year, it is projecting 2 per cent growth, slightly weaker than the 2.1 per cent it expected in November.

The Chancellor stressed that he would stick to the Government's austerity programme, which he said had enabled the Treasury to borrow at the cheapest rates in its history.

Announcing the OBR's latest forecasts for the public finances, he said he now expected this year's deficit to be £126 billion, just £1bn lower than expected in the autumn, after official figures published earlier on Wednesday revealed a shortfall of more than £15bn in February.

Picture: PAUL TOEMAN



BIG TALK: Chancellor George Osborne put himself forward as the champion of British business during his statement

'Misguided, dangerous' statement is slammed

THE Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has condemned the Chancellor's statement on planning as "misguided and dangerous", following Wednesday's Budget.

The group also expressed deep concerns about the Government's transport strategy and the suggestion that it was "going soft" on airport expansion in the South East – which the group has consistently opposed.

Adam Royle, spokesman for CPRE, said: "From the Chancellor's words we fear the longstanding protection for the wider countryside will be abandoned. That would mean that 55 per cent of English countryside, including many locally-loved green spaces, could be placed at the mercy of developers."

Ralph Smyth, senior transport campaigner at CPRE, said: "This is not a case of 'jobs versus the countryside' or 'runways versus rural England', but about tackling narrow-minded and short-sighted vested interests. It is a further loss of the rural tranquillity that remains."

Loan Guarantee Scheme aims to give the smaller companies a lift

A PLAN to help small and medium-sized business to obtain cash has been put into place by Government.

Chancellor George Osborne said Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group, Santander UK and Royal Bank of Scotland had all signed up to the Government's National Loan Guarantee Scheme (NLGS), which will provide cheaper lending to businesses with a turnover of up to £50 million.

The discounted loans are being made available because the Government is to guarantee £20 billion of the banks' own borrowing – usually from other financial institutions – thereby allowing the lenders to borrow more cheaply than they normally do.

The banks then pass on this cheaper funding to SMEs in the form of lower interest rates.

Lloyds said that as well as allowing it to offer customers cheaper loans, the scheme had the potential to "rekindle confidence, stimulate demand and encourage investment".

Barclays and RBS are expected to be the biggest users of the scheme to issue £1.5bn each of Government-backed bonds to provide the cheap loans to small businesses.

Fuel campaigners hit out at no duty change

CAMPAIGNERS calling for a cut in fuel duty say they are disappointed at the Budget ignoring their demands.

They had called on the Government to cut duty, saying it would create jobs and boost the economy – but no appropriate action was taken.

Folkestone-based Peter Carroll, founder of FairFuelUK, is a former haulage-company boss and Liberal Democrat district councillor. He said: "Diesel is at its highest price ever recorded and this failure to act is a devastating blow to families and businesses.

"Poll after poll has set out that this is the number-one priority for the UK. Millions of people and thousands of businesses will feel ignored.

"We gave the Government evidence that a cut in fuel duty would not cost it any revenue overall. Our supporters will be astonished that the Government has cut the 50p rate because 'it damages the economy' but will not tackle fuel duty when it's crippling the economy."

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CROSS-CHANNEL

Market gains for ferry firm

DFDS Seaways, the Dover-France ferry operator, has announced strong performance in 2011 for both its freight and passenger businesses, leading to increased market share on the Channel for the seventh consecutive year.

Despite fierce competition, in 2011 the number of freight units on the service rose 4.2 per cent.

DFDS Seaways is now only one of two English Channel ferry operators remaining from the six-strong marketplace in 2003.

In 2011, the freight business saw more than 467,000 units on the service. Market share of the freight business has also increased above the budgeted levels year on year.

Meanwhile, despite a decrease in overall car traffic through the Port of Dover in 2011, passenger business has experienced increases in revenue and volume for the seventh consecutive year.

Since 2007, the car market through Dover has shrunk by 5 per cent, but in that time DFDS Seaways has seen a 50 per cent rise in the number of cars carried on its ships.

The success of the business in 2011 has enabled DFDS to join together with the French company, LD Lines, to provide a new Channel service between Dover and Calais. The service launched on February 17, 2012.

Overall, DFDS turnover and profit grew by 18 per cent in 2011. Growth occurred in the Channel, the Baltic Sea, and on some major North Sea routes. The group's turnover grew to a record £1.354 billion. Pre-tax profit was £86 million.

Chris Newey, passenger director for the English Channel operation, pictured above, said: "2011 was a challenging year with the economy still in a state of uncertainty, which in turn created continued pressure on the travel sector.

"The landscape for the ferry industry has changed significantly since 2003. Against this backdrop, we are extremely proud to have achieved an increase in revenue, market share and volume of sales for the seventh year in a row.

"These results are a credit to the hard work and dedication of employees, as well as loyalty from our customers."

Eurostar celebrates profit in first year going it alone

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EUROSTAR has reported "solid progress" over the past year, with continued growth in both passenger numbers and overall sales revenues.

Following the transformation of the business from a partnership of three railways to a single, unified corporate entity on September 1, 2010, the business reports a preliminary, unaudited net profit of £20.8 million in its first full year of operation as a stand-alone company.

Total sales revenue in 2011 grew by 6 per cent from £760m to £803m, with particularly strong growth in the second half of the year.

On a like-for-like basis, after adjusting the 2010 results for the volcanic-ash-cloud impact, sales revenues have grown by 10 per cent and showed positive growth in each quarter throughout 2011.

Passenger numbers for the year rose by 2 per cent from 9.5m to 9.7m, with an increased use by those travelling for leisure, but business traveller numbers were slightly down.

Through 2011, the number of international passengers originating outside the EU was up 20 per cent, the most important non-European markets being Latin America, the United States and South-East Asia.

The company says that delivery of a net profit is a strong result for Eurostar given the high infrastructure costs incurred as an international rail operator, including access to the high-speed rail network and Channel Tunnel.

Nicolas Petrovic, chief executive of Eurostar, said: "Eurostar continues to make good progress against a difficult economic backdrop and ongoing uncertainty across Europe.

"We have invested in upgrading our service and product and this has resulted in strong growth in sales revenues and passenger numbers. Having completed our first financial year as a stand-alone business and delivered a strong performance, we are now well positioned to build on this momentum."

The company also says significant progress has been made towards its £700m fleet investment programme.

At the same time, the complete overhaul and redesign of the existing fleet of trains is progressing well. When the new and refurbished sets enter service, the Eurostar fleet will be equipped with advanced Wi-Fi and on-board 'info-tainment', which will include real-time travel and destination information as well as interactive entertainment including music and news-feeds.

Petrovic said: "The continued investment has seen customers returning to us again and again. This delivered one of our busiest weekends on record during the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton last year, reinforcing our position as the operator of choice between the UK and near-continental Europe.

"As we look to the year ahead, the combination of the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will make the capital one of the hottest destinations in the world this year.

"As a proud sponsor of the Games, we are looking forward to playing an integral role as the key link between London and near continental Europe."

MOBILITY

Centre focus on making your life easier at home

CANTERBURY Mobility Centre provides independent living to anyone experiencing difficulties coping in the home or being unable to get out and about for shopping or pleasure activities.

Restricted mobility often causes problems in being able to shop and for this reason it offers free demonstrations in the home.

All customers purchasing mobility scooters and power chairs are assessed for their needs and capabilities and the company has its own workshop where servicing and repairs are carried out by an experienced engineer.

The business is based on understanding a customer's individual needs and being able to supply the right solution.

Whether the item purchased is something as small as a jar-opener or as large as an eight-mile-an-hour scooter, experience has taught the company that each customer will vary in their personal requirement.

Sparshatts takes title for second time

A COMMITMENT to customer service has earned Mercedes-Benz truck and van dealer Sparshatts of Kent the manufacturer's coveted award for a franchise – and the chance to do the traditional Maori Haka war-dance with a legendary All Black rugby star.

Sparshatts beat 20 other dealers nationwide to take the prestigious 2012 Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicle Dealer Of The Year title.

And guest of honour Sean Fitzpatrick, legendary former captain of the New Zealand All Blacks rugby union team, presented the trophy at a ceremony in Gaggenau, Germany.

Andrew Sparshatt said: "He certainly lived the dream of being an All Black, which is what so many people from New Zealand aspire to. He had us all doing a version of the Haka, which was fun."

The award was the company's second Dealer Of The Year success, having won the same title in 1986, two years after it was introduced.

With headquarters in Sittingbourne and other dealerships in Ashford, Dartford and Tunbridge Wells, Sparshatts of Kent sells and supports the award-winning range of Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles, as well as Fuso Canter light trucks.

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Training, courses and careers

Building bosses told to train staff for safety test

CONSTRUCTION companies in Kent are being urged to upskill to create a safer and more competent workforce.

The call to action comes with the roll out of the new health, safety and environment test from CITB-ConstructionSkills, the Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council for construction, which comes into place from April 1.

It follows a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) clampdown on construction site safety. Between February 20 and March 16 HSE inspectors have been visiting Kent construction sites as part of its inspection initiative aimed at reducing death and injury in the construction sector.

Anyone taking the health, safety and environment test after April 1 will need to familiarise themselves with the updated question bank and the new features of the test in order to give themselves the best chance of completing it.

Officials say the test includes a number of new elements while retaining core fundamentals, including:

- A refreshed and updated question bank including the new universal hazard symbols;
- An increase in the number of questions on respiratory risks and the hazards they can pose;
- Knowledge questions on the environment;
- Behavioural case studies which assess how a candidate responds to highlight safe working practices on site.

New revision information is available, including the training video Setting Out, which highlights the required behaviours of both the site management and the workers.

The behavioural case studies are based on the principles set out in the film and test what a construction worker might face in their real life jobs, and their reactions to that situation. The training video will be available to see free of charge.

Kevin Fear, head of health and safety strategy at CITB-ConstructionSkills said: "Setting Out and the behavioural case studies are the most important features of the new test. While construction workers need good awareness of the health, safety and environmental issues that affect construction sites, further improvements to the industry's accident record will only be made once we have workers responding appropriately to the conditions that they will find on site."

Braden Connolly of CITB-ConstructionSkills said: "It is absolutely crucial that anyone taking the test gets up to speed with the new elements, and ensures they are as well prepared for the test as they can be.

"We pride ourselves on making the test accessible to anyone who wants to take it, via a range of methods including voice overs, readers, sign, and foreign language interpreters but this can only work if candidates get themselves fully familiar with the test's content."

For information about the new test, and revision materials, visit www.cskills.org/hsanderevision.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE: A video can help building workers pass a new safety test

'Join up for the sake of economy'

COUNCILS, businesses, schools and colleges must join forces to train unemployed people to fill thousands of vacant jobs to get the economy moving again, says a South East Skills Summit.

Shortages of IT specialists, chefs, HGV drivers and care workers are holding back individuals and the economy, so tackling skills gaps should be top priority for business, education and local government said summit chairman Martin Tett.

He said: "We need to ensure our people have the best chances when it comes to applying for work – whether this is highly specialist qualifications or the basic life and attitude skills so many employers are looking for. Too many young people are unemployed and we are determined to avoid a lost generation by working together.

Employment minister Chris Grayling urged councils and businesses to join the Government's Work Programme. He said the eight-week placements were crucial to give young unemployed people experience that would help them compete for jobs. He also highlighted councils' role in identifying 'troubled families' who needed help to overcome years of unemployment.

Young apprentice Anna Davies told the Summit how her job at Kent County Council was giving her skills to kick start her career.

Other speakers included the leader of KCC Cllr Paul Carter.

New college skills shop to sell itself

CANTERBURY College has launched the Canterbury Retail Skills Shop and the Canterbury Spa.

Last month's opening of Canterbury Retail Skills Shop means the college has become the only college in the area to be awarded National Skills Academy for Retail status.

This allows the college to deliver a new portfolio of courses specifically designed for those working in the retail sector.

These courses include apprenticeships; customer service retail management courses; and the new Mary Portas guide to successful retailing.

And the college's new training facility the Canterbury Spa features all the things you would expect to find in a high quality hotel or high street spa including a steam room, sauna, spa pool, and a dry flotation tank.

Canterbury College principal Alison Clarke said: "The new Skills Shop responds to national priorities and local training needs, while the Canterbury Spa is perhaps the most impressive commercial training facility for hair and beauty industries in the further education sector."

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Beauty show pupils made up with masterclass

TWO of Kent's top make-up artists visited the Zone, Folkestone Academy's hair and beauty salon, to provide a make-up masterclass.

Gemma Parnell from Make-up by Gem, and Lucy Moat from Maid-up Makeup Artistry, spent the day with the 15 winners of the academy's annual hair and beauty show, demonstrating the techniques and products required for photographic make-up and essential tricks of the trade to be a successful in the industry.

Students completed hair and make-up looks on each other from their chosen era ranging from 40s through to 70s and were then taken to Dover Transport Museum to gain experience on a location photoshoot.

Waiting at the museum were top photographers, Alan and Thomas Langley and the team from Dover Design Photography ready to photograph the students' work and create a poster image as a representation of the era.

Students became part of the location team for the day,working with the photographers, stylist and models to shoot their work in front of backdrops and cars from the era.

Working with industry professionals gave the students a real insight into the role of hair and make-up artists in the world of fashion and advertising photography.

The show winners learnt what it takes to produce both a creative and technically accurate visual representation, working to a brief with professional photographers and make-up artists to produce strong images for their portfolio.

Royal duties for college's Frontliners at education awards bash

MIDKENT College students found themselves in the presence of royalty when they attended a prestigious awards ceremony at London's Guildhall.

Princess Anne and Prince Edward were both in attendance for a celebration banquet to mark the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

Accompanied by members of staff from the Medway Campus, the 26 students from the Frontline Training course – known as Frontliners – welcomed guests to the event and helped ensure everything ran smoothly.

MidKent College won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its Frontline Training courses in 1998 and has been invited back to help run the biennial celebration ever since.

Beverley Noble, head of the services to people faculty, said: "This is the biggest event on the Frontliners' calendar and it takes several months to prepare for, but they took it in their stride.

"They put all the skills they've learned on the course into action and really came up trumps on the evening. Their professionalism and customer service was outstanding, and the organisers of the event were delighted.

"Hopefully we'll be invited back again next time."

MidKent College's Frontline Training courses are designed to give students the opportunity to experience customer service delivery first hand while providing local businesses and charities with help running events.

ROYAL APPOINTMENT: MidKent College's team

Parliamentary honour for tsetse fly researchers

THE achievements of staff and students from the University of Greenwich at Medway have been celebrated at a special reception in Parliament.

They joined the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skill Vince Cable, ministers, MPs and members of the House of Lords at an exhibition and reception at the Palace of Westminster.

The VIPs viewed pioneering work from the university's Natural Resources Institute on the Medway campus at Chatham Maritime.

University researchers there have developed an innovative way of tackling problems caused by tsetse fly, eliminating the killer disease of sleeping sickness in some parts of Africa. This research has been named as one of the top 10 discoveries in any UK university in the last 60 years.

The Secretary of State, his shadow Chuka Umunna MP, and Paul Blomfield MP, Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Universities Group, all made speeches, speaking about the contribution of universities like Greenwich to national and international education, research and enterprise.

Environmental science student Robert Gunning was one of six Greenwich students invited to attend the event. "It was a huge thrill to be asked, and a really good experience," said Robert, who lives in Strood.

"It was a great opportunity to talk to a whole range of people. The Secretary of State said universities like ours have contributed a lot to the national education system and that our research is really vital."

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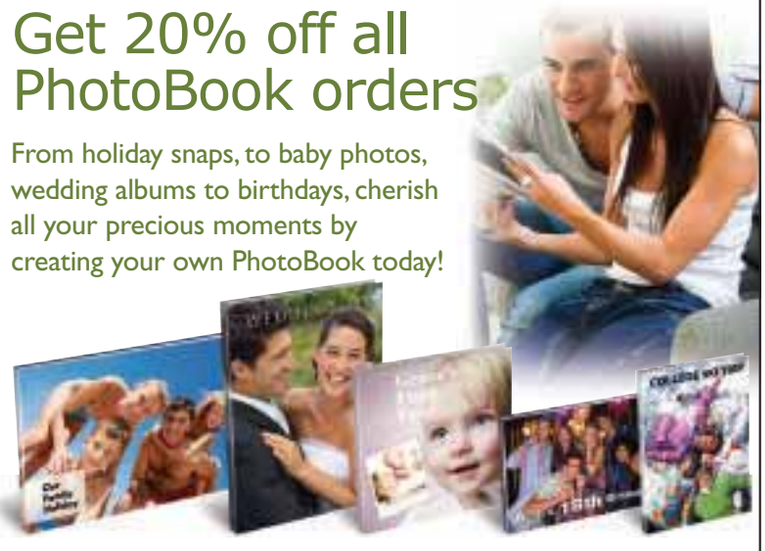

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Applicants must be passionate and knowledgeable about dance and theatre, will have completed an arts degree or equivalent and have had at least one years experience within a professional arts environment.

For a full job description and person specification please e mail producer@jasminvardimon.com

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 10th April

Unfortunately we will be unable to reply to those we have not shortlisted for interview.

Successful candidates will be contacted by Thursday April 12th interviews will be held on Tuesday April 17th.

Education Administrator

The Jasmin Vardimon Company is seeking to appoint a highly motivated and energetic education administrator. This is an exciting role at a time when the company is launching its innovative training programme, JVC Certificate and expanding its national and international offer.

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For a full job description and person specification please e mail: producer@jasminvardimon.com

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 10th April

Unfortunately we will be unable to reply to those we have not shortlisted for interview.

Successful candidates will be contacted by Thursday April 12th interviews will be held on Tuesday April 17th.

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KENT AUTISTIC TRUST

As a charitable Trust, we provide high quality services across Kent for adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and their families and are proud to offer individual, tailor made, person centred solutions of support of vocational and life skill services through our supported living, residential and day centres. The Trust encourages maximum independence, choice and use of community resources, within a supportive environment.

We are looking for enthusiastic, committed staff to provide support to people who want to live in their own home and live their own lives. The candidates need to be able to empathise with the Tenants issues and work well with families and friends who are part of the circle of support. The service is registered under Domiciliary care.

Supported Living Manager £25,306 - £ 28,421(NVQ4)

As every day is different, you must be an effective problem solver, an excellent communicator and organiser.

Ideally you have a good knowledge of working with people with autism and have experience to lead and support our excellent and experienced team to continue to provide an individualised service for every person who is paying for support. You will be 'hands on' for 2-3 days a week, must have or be willing to work towards NVQ level 4. Training and support will be given and for the right candidate this will be a dream job!

Closing date: 10.4.12

Interviews will be held on Monday, 16th of April 2012

Senior Support Worker £14,674 - £ 16,405 (NVQ 3)

If you believe that people have a right to have a life regardless of the barriers then this will be a dream job for you. Ideally you have worked with people with autism in the community or you must have at least a fascination and interest in autism. Equally important is that you are honest, caring, have good empathy and communication skills.

If you think you meet these criteria we would love to hear from you.

Training (induction week + mandatory training) and support will be provided.

Closing date: 10.4.12

Interviews will be held on Wednesday, 18th of April 2012.

For further information please contact Christine Edwards-Daem on 01634 405168.
An application pack can be downloaded from www.kentautistic.com.

As an equal opportunity employer with Investor in People status, we welcome applications from a wide section of the community. Applicants offered employment are subject to an enhanced criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau paid for by the Trust.

The future of local media

Be part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Account Manager Field Based
Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self-motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms. You will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets. Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
You will be building long-lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent.
Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required.
A full driving licence is essential.

Telephone Sales Executive
If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for this job today.
You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter to:
Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Telephone: 01303 817040 Fax: 01303 817004
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Part time Staff Nurses Ashford/Margate

Closing date for applications - Friday 6th April 2012

Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Debbie Burr - 01233 616201 Ext 86202
For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

Staff Nurses (Ashford)
to work on our Flexi bank

Closing date for applications - Friday 6th April 2012

Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Debbie Burr - 01233 616201 Ext 86202
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E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

LECTURER IN PLASTERING

To raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Programme Area.

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week, all year

Closing date:
Wednesday 28th March 2012

Interview Date:
Tuesday 17th April 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Hair — *Ref: T0367*

Salary: £24,043 - £29,020 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week - fixed term Maternity Cover contract. Medway

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes on Levels 1 to 3. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. Hourly paid positions also available.

Lecturer in Child Care — *Ref: P0395*

Salary: £24,043 - £29,020 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week. Medway

We are looking for knowledgeable and experienced candidates to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidates will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Electrical Installation — *Ref: P0070*

Hourly rate: £20.51 - £29.18 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The ideal candidate will have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate will hold an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work teaching and assessing qualifications.

Partnerships Administrator — *Ref: TSN14*

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum
Fixed Term contract. Medway

We are looking to recruit an experienced administrator to join our busy Business Development Department. The successful candidate will work closely with the Partnerships Manager, processing and administering external contracts. The ideal candidate will have excellent ICT and communication skills.

Closing date: 12 noon Wednesday 28 March 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

MidKent College

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL

Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An Academy with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities
An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including
350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 - "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

School Laboratory Technician

School Laboratory Technician (Biology)

Grade: D2 - Salary: £15,039 - £19,126 per annum pro-rata (£11,248 - £14,304)
Hours: 1 Technician 37 hours per week term time only plus 10 days during the holidays

We require a Laboratory Technician to work within the Biology Department at this highly successful grammar school from 16th April 2012.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experienced in a laboratory environment with school technician experience an advantage.

Please contact the P A to the Executive Principal Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications - 25th March 2012

Interviews will take place week beginning - 26th March 2012

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LEARNING SUPPORT PRACTITIONERS- Behaviour, Emotional, Social Difficulties

To provide support for students on a 1:1 basis, or as a group and to work as a member of a team to support young people with a range of conditions with a focus on behaviour and emotional, social difficulties.

SALARY SCALE: £9,800 - £10,543 FOR 30 HOURS PER WEEK, 38 WEEKS PER YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 28th March 2012
Interview Date: Monday 16th April 2012

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Westlands Academies Trust

WESTLANDS SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

LESSON SUPERVISOR
Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 5 weeks paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

EXAM SUPPORT
INVIGILATORS/READERS AND SCRIBES
£10 per hour

Casual staff required to increase our existing pool of Exam Invigilators who uphold the integrity of external and internal examinations and enforce JCQ regulations. As successful candidates may be required to read and scribe for pupils, applicants should have a good level of literacy.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online (www.westlands.org.uk)
Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 28 March 2012

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. These posts are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SH/0077/2012 - Proposed development at Elham C of E Primary School, Vicarage Lane, Elham, Kent, CT4 6TT

Elham C of E Primary School is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the replacement of existing flat roof with new shallow pitch roof. The proposed development is within the Elham Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

KCC/TW/0061/2012 - Proposed development at Tunbridge Wells Library, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1NS

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for a proposed extension to rear of building to house new lift. The proposed development is within the Tunbridge Wells Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of the applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 24 OF DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

SW/10/444 - Proposed development at Land to the East of Kemsley Paper Mill, Kemsley, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2TD

I give notice that having taken environmental information submitted in support of the proposal into consideration Kent County Council has granted planning permission to St Regis Paper Co Ltd and E.ON Energy from Waste UK Ltd for the development of a sustainable energy plant to serve Kemsley Paper Mill, comprising pre treated waste fuel reception, moving grate technology, power generation and export facility, air cooled condenser, 2 no. stacks (90 metres high), transformer, bottom ash facility, steam pipe connection, office accommodation, vehicle parking, landscaping, drainage and access.

You may view copies of the application, the plans, other documents submitted with the application and the planning permission at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the offices of the Planning Applications Group, Planning & Environment Division, Enterprise & Environment Directorate, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 25 March 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Bleak House, Fort Road, Broadstairs**
Applicant: **Miss Kelly Hilton**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00599/HOUSE **Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**
- Removal and replacement of single storey extension, associated works and internal alterations (LB) (CA)

12/00600/LBC **Matfield House The Green, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal and replacement of single storey extension, associated works and internal alterations (LB)

12/00712/FUL **Land Between 1 & 11 Broadcroft, Broadwater**
- Variation of condition 7 (part) - Hard landscaping (TW/07/03046 refers) (CA)

12/00650/FUL **Orchard Brook Five Oak Green Road, Capel**
- Single storey extension to gym (PROW)

12/00692/HOUSE **38 Willow Crescent Five Oak Green, Capel**
- Two storey side extension (LB)

12/00715/HOUSE **The Coach House Hurstwood Lane, Culverden**
- Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of orangery (CA)

12/00640/HOUSE **Apple Trees Swan Lane, Goudhurst**
- First floor extension to south east over kitchen with windows on north east and south west elevations (LB)

12/00671/HOUSE **Ash View Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst**
- Replacement of garden shed (LB)

12/00734/HOUSE **Riseden House Riseden, Goudhurst**
- Replacement double glazed upvc windows. Minor alterations to remove chimney and replace flat roof of dormer with pitched roof (LB)

12/00658/FUL **Grove Mills Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use of part from B1 (Business) to D1 (Community) with internal alterations (CA)

12/00501/FUL **Rams Hill Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Retrospective - Tractor shed (LB)

12/00711/FUL **The Forge Brenchley Road, Horsmonden**
- Demolish garage building and construct two bedroom dwelling, access from Furnace Lane (CA)

12/00678/FUL **The Tunbridge Wells Bar & Grill 84 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Relocation of two existing extraction units and duct work, with screening, including raising retaining wall and tiled roof screen (CA) (LB)

12/00746/LBC **Fairlawn House 22 Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Provision of stair handrails to main entrance door (LB)

12/00680/FUL **Infinity Technology Solutions Ltd The Coach House, Park**
- External alterations to fenstration and construction of new entrance (single storey extension) (CA)

12/00700/HOUSE **1A Cambridge Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Extension of Time: Single-storey rear extension (TW09/00134/FUL refers) (CA)

12/00637/HOUSE **The Far Barn Foxhole Farm, Sandhurst**
- Conversion of outbuildings to form extension of living accommodation to existing dwelling with a self-contained studio (LB)

12/00578/HOUSE **4 Sandown Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Sherwood**
- Two dormers at front elevation (CA)

12/00749/FUL **35 London Road (Land Rear Of) Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Demolition of an existing B1 use building and construct a two storey, two bedroom dwelling (CA)

12/00750/CAC **35 London Road (Land Rear Of) Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of redundant office building (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 24 March 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/2186/N - FOXGROVE HOUSE, 30, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TR - Erection of replacement summerhouse. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/2215/S - HOPLANDS, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JS - Erection of a detached timber framed car port. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0156/S - GREAT CHEVENEY FARM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, KENT, TN12 9LX - Erection of a welfare building for the farm's seasonal labour force. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0263/N - 61, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission MA/05/1529 (no activity in connection with the use hereby permitted shall be carried out outside the hours of 0800 and 2300 hours Mondays to Saturdays, and 1000 hours and 1900 hours on Sundays, Bank or Public Holidays) to have operating hours between 08:00am and 04:00am Mondays to Saturdays, and 10:00am and 02:00am on Sundays and Bank or Public Holidays. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0340/N - NEW SHELVE FARM, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DS - Erection of agricultural storage building for farm machinery, grain and fertilizer. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/12/0352/N - LEEDS ABBEY FARM HOUSE, LOWER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TL - An application for listed building consent for repairs to chimney and fireplace. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0367/S - FORMER ROSE INN SITE 1, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6RG - Erection of 14 residential units comprising 2 (two-storey) 2-bedroom houses, 10 (three-storey) 2-bedroom flats, 2 (two-storey) 1-bedroom flats together with the provision of 12 car parking spaces and 24 cycle parking spaces and landscaping. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0368/S - MID KENT COLLEGE OF HIGHER AND, OAKWOOD PARK, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8AQ - Demolition of Block C, plumbing, decorating and exam blocks and caretakers lodge, construction of infill to Block A and Block W and a glazed link between Blocks T and S, construction of entrance canopy, re-cladding of all blocks (except Block M) and rearrangement of car park to site frontage. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0374/S - 3, ELVEYS COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HY - Two storey side extension and porch. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **8th April 2012,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 25th March 2012

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PLANNING

Public Notice

25 March 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

The Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment No 1) Order 2012

Notice is hereby given that on 14 March 2012 Canterbury City Council made the above Order under the provisions of Sections 32 and 35 and Parts III and IV of the Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

The Order will come into operation on 1 April 2012 and will:

(a) Amend the description of the Herne Bay and Whitstable Business Users permits which would restrict the availability of the permits to those who work in Herne Bay or Whitstable town centres.

(b) Amend the charge for the Whitefriars car park to:

Sunday to Friday	Minimum fee	£1.70
	Rate based on	£1.70 per hour
	Saturdays:	
	Minimum fee	£3.40
	Rate based on	£1.70 per hour thereafter
	Over five hours	£20
	Between 6pm and 12 midnight (No entry after 12 midnight)	£1.70

A copy of the Order may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury — Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay — Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm; Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provision contained in it, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the 1984 Act or on the grounds that any requirement of any Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from 14 March 2012, apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY CT1 1YW

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/02151/LB: Broomfield House, Ford Road, Herne, CT6 7AD Erection of garden gate. **Applicant: Miss S Nops** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/02202/LB: Land adjacent to 87 Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LU Alterations to rainwater gutter to side elevation. **Applicant: Estates Bursar, The King's School** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00054/FUL: Stour Farm Cottage, Riverside, Chartham, CT4 7NX Change of use of home office building and domestic garage and store building to provide two units of holiday accommodation. **Applicant: Mr Neil Brocklebank** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00152/FUL: Baye Cottage, Baye Lane, Ickham, CT3 1RB Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden. Erection of detached garage and provision of associated driveway, fencing and gates. **Applicant: JRA Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00169/FUL: Land at Barham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barham Change of use of agricultural barn to storage and distribution (Use Class B8). **Applicant: Barham Court Farm** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00197/LB: Horsehead Farm, Greenhills, Barham, CT4 6JY Internal and external alterations. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wilson** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00204/LB: 2 The Borough, Canterbury, CT1 2DR Internal and external alterations. **Applicant: B Smith** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00253/FUL: 13 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Installation of dropped curb. **Applicant: Mr Alan Ramsey** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00310/FUL: Stodmarsh Court Farm, Stodmarsh Road, Wickhambreaux CT3 4BA Erection of agricultural storage building. **Applicant: Birt Bros** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00316/TPO: Foxes Piece, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Reduce crown of Oak tree by 30% subject to TPO No 2 1968. **Applicant: S Farrant** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00317/FUL: 16 St Radigund's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AA Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/0772/FUL for rebuilding of street frontage, single and two-storey extensions as Arts and Technology Centre, change of use to education (Class D1 use) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: The Kings School** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00318/LB: 16 St Radigund's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AA Application for a new listed building consent to replace listed building consent CA/09/0771/LB for rebuilding of street frontage, single and two-storey extensions and internal alterations in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: The Kings School** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00329/FUL 5 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Addition of weatherboarding to front elevation. **Applicant: Savoy Snooker Club** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00330/FUL: Long Ashton, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Single storey rear extension and roof alterations including dormers to rear and front. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Smith** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00339/FUL: 28 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JB Conversion of garage to living accommodation. **Applicant: Mrs A Amlot** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00341/FUL: Handville Green, Anvil Green Road, Waltham, CT4 7EU Demolition of garage and erection of replacement garage with store above. **Applicant: Mr Harland** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00342/LB: Handville Green, Anvil Green Road, Waltham, CT4 7EU Application for listed building consent for demolition of curtilage building. **Applicant: R Harland** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00343/LB: St Gregory's Church, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU Removal of timber roof beam above main stage. **Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00346/LB: The King's School, Monastery Street, Canterbury, CT1 1NN Refurbishment of kitchen. **Applicant: Governors of The King's School** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00363/FUL: 64 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JZ Addition of dormer windows to front and rear elevations of dwelling. **Applicant: Dr Schultz** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 16 April 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 23 March 2012

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Notice of application to vary a premises licence
The Ballroom, 15, Orange Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JA

Notice is hereby given that Mr S. Ness, The Ballroom, 15 Orange Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JA has applied to Canterbury City Council for the variation of the existing premises licence:

1. To extend the current permitted hours for all licensed activities other than live music
2. To apply certain non-standard timings in relation to Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the Sunday preceding the Bank Holidays at the beginning of May, late May/early June and in August,
3. To remove an obsolete condition relating to capacity numbers

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862484 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by

Tuesday 10th April 2012.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for a new Premises Licence

I, James Elliott Pemble hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at 7, New Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8TN and to be known as Players.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL during normal office hours (website address www.ashford.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 14th April 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling
Kent. ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for a new Premises Licence

I, Margaret Martin hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate Kent CT9 1XZ for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at 56-58, King Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8NY and to be known as Angels.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate Kent CT9 1XZ during normal office hours (website address www.thanet.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 14th April 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling
Kent. ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that Kent County Council has received recommendations from its Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of its Scheme of Member Allowances. The main features of the Panel's recommendations are as follows:

(a) The removal of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for the Chairmen of the seven Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which will be disbanded on 31 March 2012;

(b) The payment of SRAs for the Chairmen of the six new Cabinet Committees at a rate of £7,367;

(c) The removal of the SRA for the role of Conservative Spokesperson of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, which will be disbanded on 31 March 2012;

(d) The payment of an SRA for the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee at the same rate as a Cabinet Committee Chairman.

Copies of the full report of the Panel are available for inspection at Kent County Council, Democratic Services, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ during normal office hours or can be viewed online at www.kent.gov.uk

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 09 April 2012

SW/10/1419:
Redevelopment of part of site known as Milton Creek comprising new retail (Class A1) supermarket (totalling up to 13,420 sqm) with undercroft parking, A1 units of varying sizes (totalling up to 8,545 sqm), and an A1/A3 unit (totalling 185 sqm), car parking spaces, associated servicing and bridge access - Land at Milton Creek/Eurolink/Crown Quay Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3 & 5**

SW/11/1610:
Change of use to mixed use B1 (Business) and D1 (Non-residential institution) - Purifier Building, Rear of Morrison's Supermarket, North Lane, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 6**

SW/12/0179:
Extension to existing grain store - Collington Farm, Ashford Road, BADLESMERE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0227:
Planning permission for moving the swimming pool constructing a greenhouse and poolhouse. Listed building consent for the changes to the roof access structure; forming underfloor heating; opening window to second floor east elevation; installing a fire sprinkler system together with associated building works; revising the plan to the southern outbuilding; revising the garage roof plan; revising the lift enclosure and constructing a greenhouse, pool-building and moving the swimming pool. (Amendments and alterations to SW/11/1309 & SW/11/1310) - Dockyard House, The Residential Quarter, Sheerness Dockyard, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1, 2 & 3**

SW/12/0251:
Demolition of existing premises and construction of 6 no. two bedroom flats with associated parking - 7 High Street, Minster, SHEERNESS; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0263:
Listed Building Consent for replacement of previously existing garden shed with new timber framed garden building on same area - 123 The Street, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0284:
Listed Building Consent for replacement roof lantern - Building No. 86, Jetty Road, Port of Sheerness, SHEERNESS; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0285:
Demolition of the existing unit and erection of 3 terraced houses - Unit 1, The Shipyard, Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 6**

SW/12/0289:
Erection of lifesize statue commemorating Short Brothers contribution to British Aviation - Land at Shellness Road, LEYSDOWN; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/12/0290:
Listed Building Consent for removal of existing paint on mathematical tiles on west elevation of building to expose the mathematical tiles - 12 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0292:
Application to remove condition 1 of SW/10/0114 to allow permanent retention of the land for a caravan site - Salvation Place, Bell Farm Lane, MINSTER; **REASON 4**

SW/12/0304:
Advertisement Consent for 1 non-illuminated fascia sign and 2 non-illuminated flat ali panels to cover existing projector - 1 Roman Square, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0319:
Retrospective application for the use of building as Wine Merchants for storage of wine & wholesale, internet & retail wine sales - Hercules Wine Warehouse, Macknade Fine Food, Selling Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 5**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Applicant: Port of Sheerness Ltd

Application Numbers: SW/12/0045 & SW/12/0075 & SW/12/0076 JRW Case : 00596

Proposal: **SW/12/0045** - Outline Planning Application for the demolition of existing buildings and structures (except for) the retention of the existing Ambient Area W4 building and existing Cool Store No.2 building and use for Nacelle Inventory (i.e. nacelle cover, generator, gear, transformers) and Offshore Stores (i.e storage of parts for the offshore wind turbine) up to a maximum of 26,400 sqm (GEA), proposed erection of a Blade Production building up to a maximum of 125,300 sqm (GEA); a Common Services Centre (i.e. administration and catering building) up to a maximum of 11,500 sqm (GEA); a Nacelle Production building (i.e. enclosure for the generator) up to a maximum of 12,250 sqm (GEA); Blade storage area up to a maximum of 229,185 sqm; Nacelle Storage area up to a maximum area of 57,320 sqm, tower storage up to a maximum of 101,680 sqm; Main Substation Area up to a maximum area of 3250 sqm (GEA) and facilities for Power Conversion Modules assembly and tower erection, with associated cranes/rigs. Layout, Scale, proposed internal access roads, appearance and landscaping matters are reserved. Full Planning Permission for the retention, strengthening and infilling of existing quays structures, dredging, the erection of new marine structures to create a continuous offshore transit area and quay wall, new inset berth (consisting of a new finger quay and travelling crane), relocation of the existing car terminal and berth, provision of an internal perimeter access road, and quayside storage and assembly areas.

SW/12/0075 - Removal to ground of Grade II* Listed (Former Working Mast House) Building 26.

SW/12/0076 - Demolition of free-standing structures potentially listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed building (shed no. 1, shed no. 2, shed no. 2A, Shed no. 67, shed no. 68). Demolition of structures potentially listed through physical annexation to be altered or demolished (shed no. 25, shed no. 25W and attached sub station, shed no. 27, Rennie pumping station, Dockyard Wall adjacent to west of south (railway) gate, Rennie sea wall, below ground adjacent to Building 26).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED - HERITAGE MITIGATION STRATEGY AND BAT ROOST AND ACTIVITY SURVEY.

Location: Sheerness Docks, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1RS

THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING. THIS APPLICATION IS FOR A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT. THIS APPLICATION MAY BE OF A WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST. THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT.

I give notice that an application has been submitted to Swale Borough Council for the above development.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans, and other documents submitted with it at the Planning Services Reception, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, during normal office hours.

This application can be viewed via our partnership with the UK Planning website (www.ukplanning.com/swale), but this may take up to 7 days to be completed. When using this website please use application reference SW/12/0045 . You may submit any observations on the application via the website.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Planning Services Manager, Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT by **09 April 2012**

PLEASE NOTE: by law, any letters received have to be made available for inspection by the applicant and any other interested persons.

J FREEMAN
Head of Development Services
(Advert)

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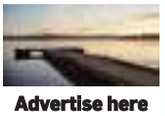

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AW35 (PART) & AW36 (PART) CHARING)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 8 December 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert:-

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW35 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A) and runs in a west north westerly through westerly direction for 98 metres to its connection with Hook Lane at NGR TQ 9411 4921 (point B).

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW36 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9411 4913 (point F) 10 metres from its connection with Hook Lane and runs in an east north easterly through north easterly direction for 122 metres to its connection with Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A).

and to provide:-

A new length of Public Footpath numbered AW35 with a width of 2.5 metres between A-C-D and a width of 2.0 metres between D-E which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9421 4919 (point A) and runs in a west north westerly direction for 86 metres to NGR TQ 9413 4922 (point C), west south westerly, thence southerly for 24 metres to NGR TQ 9412 4920 (point D) thence westerly for 10 metres to a new connection with Hook Lane at NGR TQ 9411 4920 (point E).

A new length of Public Footpath numbered AW36 with a width of 2.5 metres, which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9411 4913 (point F) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 74 metres to its connection with the new length of Public Footpath AW35 at NGR TQ 9412 4920 (point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order came into force on 5 January 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 25 March 2012, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW37 (PART) CHARING)

PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 8 December 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 118 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to extinguish:-

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW37 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW37 at NGR TQ 9413 4922 (point A) and runs in a generally south south easterly direction for approximately 79 metres to its connection with Public Footpath AW36 at NGR TQ 9417 4915 (point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order came into force on 8 December 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 25 March 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZU1 at Kemsley Drain (NGR TQ 919 654) approximately 250 metres north of new Milton Creek road bridge from the 12th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the work should be completed in 3 months.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a track and a temporary bridge and will be marked for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 IN THE PARISH OF EAST PECKHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MR548 from Branbridges Road to NGR TQ674 485 from the 10th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users

There is an alternative route along the site boundary and this will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 25th March 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

QUARRINGTON LANE, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road excavations to lay electrical cables, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Quarrington Lane, Mersham, on or after 10 April 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Bockham Lane and Plumpton.

The road will be closed in 2 separate places, as advised locally and signposted on site.

Initially, the road will be closed in the vicinity of Quarrington Farm, planned for up to 2 days, then in the vicinity of California Farm, for a further 2 days.

STATION ROAD, SMEETH, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the refurbishment of the bridge deck over the M20, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Smeeth, Ashford, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am each night.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the M20 Motorway.

Temporary traffic lights are likely to be required during daytime for the protection of the recently installed materials.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A20 Hythe Road, The Street (Mersham), Bower Road and Station Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) SPEED LIMITS CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO1) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers has made an Order, the effect of which is to:-

Extend the existing 30mph speed limit in Goldwell Lane, from the junction with Roman Road, in a north easterly direction, for a total of 320m, to a point up to and including the Eco Study Centre.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 2 April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads affected by the new provisions may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - Districts of Ashford and Shepway

PLAIN ROAD, SELLINDGE / SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plain Road, Sellindge / Smeeth, on or after 30 March 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cooper's Lane and Granary Court Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the A20 and Brabourne Lees.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Hythe Road, Church Road, Woolpack Hill and Plain Road.

Limited access will remain to Southenay Road from Plain Road for most of the time, but a diversion via Moorstock Lane, Cock Ash Lane and Broad Street is likely to be in place when the final section of Plain Road is closed.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A28 WINCHEAP / THANINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of remedial carriagway surfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap / Thanington Road, Canterbury, on or after 29 March 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and midnight each night.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Simmonds Road and the A2 on-slip.

The alternative route is via Ten Perch Road, The Boundary, Cow Lane and Simmonds Road.

Local side roads may be closed at their junctions with Wincheap at certain times as the works progress. This will be signposted on site, with local diversions.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Road will be suspended when it is closed at the junction with Wincheap, to allow traffic to exit.

BEST LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury, on or after 10 April 2012 for up to 14 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street and the entrance to Orange Street Car Park.

The alternative route is via High Street, St Peter's Street and The Friars.

CANTERBURY ROAD & BORSTAL HILL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Canterbury Road & Borstal Hill, Whitstable, on or after 28 March 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and midnight.

Canterbury Road & Borstal Hill will be closed in phases between the junctions with Gordon Road and Belmont Road.

The alternative routes for through traffic are as shown below.

VEHICLES UNDER 13' 3" (4.0 M)

Northbound via B2205 Borstal Hill, A2990 Thanet Way, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), St Swithin's Road, Tankerton Road, Tower Parade, Harbour Street, High Street and Oxford Street

Southbound via Cromwell Road, B2205 Tower Parade, Tankerton Road, Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), A2990 Thanet Way and Borstal Hill.

VEHICLES OVER 13' 3" (4.0 M)

Traffic taller than 13' 3" will need to continue on the A2990 to Greenhill Bridge Road, Sea Street, Whitstable Road, Colewood Road and St John's Road.

Certain side roads may need to be closed at their junctions with Canterbury Road as the works progress, with local diversions set up wherever possible.

DOUGLAS AVENUE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Douglas Avenue, Whitstable, on or after 29 March 2012 for up to 2 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Linden Avenue, Seymour Avenue and Old Bridge Road.

DOVER STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the removal of a tower crane, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dover Street, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 1 April 2012 for up to 1 day.

The road will be closed between entrance to car park and the junction with Vernon Place.

The alternative route is via Upper Bridge Street, Old Dover Road and Vernon Place.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Dover Street will be suspended from Upper Bridge Street to the point of closure, for access only.

If adverse conditions prevent the works going ahead on the date above, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays, as advised locally and on site.

HOADES WOOD ROAD, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hoades Wood Road, Sturry, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Babs Oak Hill and Cedar Road.

The alternative route is via Babs Oak Hill, A28 Island Road, Homewood Road and Cedar Road.

MARINE PARADE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic calming, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Whitstable, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Anne's Road.

The alternative route is via Cliff Road, Tankerton Road, and St Anne's Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Marine Parade will be suspended between the junctions with Cliff Road and St Anne's Road, for access only.

STOUR STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway excavations to check water connections, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stour Street, Canterbury, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of Stour Court.

The alternative route is via Stour Street, Rosemary Lane, A28 Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Watling Street and Beer Cart Lane.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of remedial works at the level crossing, Kent County Council gives notice that through traffic on Sturry Level Crossing, Canterbury will be prohibited on or after 27 March 2012, as shown below.

A28 Mill Road (Sturry Hill), Sturry will be closed from

Tuesday 27 March 2012 at **11.30 pm** until **Wednesday 28 March at 5.50 am**, and

Wednesday 28 March 2012 at **11.30 pm** until **Thursday 29 March** at **5.50 am**

There will be no through access between the junctions with Vauxhall Road and A28 Island Road / A291 Sturry Hill.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Pedestrians will be escorted across the road during these works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

HYTHE STREET, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hythe Street, Dartford.

The Order will become effective on, 29th March 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The closure will be in operation for 2 days from the hours of 22:00hrs - 06:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route during the above restriction will be via: Hythe Street, Mill Pond Road, Temple Hill, Temple Hill Square, St Vincent Road, A226 and Home Gardens

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Railway Bridge examination.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

OLD CHARLTON ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Charlton Road, Dover, on or after 10 April 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Frith Road and Danes Court.

The alternative route is via Connaught Road, Castle Hill, Dover Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, HOUGHHAM WITHOUT, DOVER) (WIDTH RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

Schedule
(6'-6" (2.0m) Restriction)

Road Name	Length of road affected
Crook's Court Lane	From Gravel Lane northwards to its junction with Satmar Lane.
Gravel Lane	From its junction with Hougham Court Lane northwards to Crook's Court Lane.
Hougham Top Road	From its junction with Plough Hill westwards to its junction with Gravel Lane.
Plough Hill	From its junction with B2011 Folkestone Road northwards including Doctor's Lane and Stonyway Lane to the junction with Elms Hill and Elms Vale Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HUNTON ROAD, MARDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hunton Road outside Cedardene Farm on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Hunton Road, East Street, George Street, Brickyard Lane, Redwall Lane, A229 Linton Hill, B2079 Maidstone Road, Underlyn Lane, Green Lane, Hunton Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new culvert. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KINGS LANE, COLLIER STREET)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kings Lane on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 11 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Spenny Lane, B2162 Claygate/Collier Street.

Kent County Council Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to rebuild a culvert. Should you require any

further information about these works, the contact is Stephen Lambert on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KNIGHTRIDER STREET & MOTE ROAD, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
(SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Knightrider Street and westbound traffic on Mote Road leading into Knightrider Street on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 10 weeks or until such works are complete. The one way order on Knightrider Street is temporarily suspended during the time of the works to allow for access.

The alternative route is via A229 Upper Stone Street/Loose Road/Sheal's Crescent/ Postley Road/Hayle Road/College Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PILGRIMS WAY, HOLLINGBOURNE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pilgrims Way from the junction of B2163 Upper Street to outside Lime Trees on or after Monday 26th March 2012 for a period of up to 5 days and Broad Street Hill west for 50 metres on or after Monday 2nd April 2012 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, Water Lane, Roundwell, A20 Ashford Road, Eyhorne Street, Pilgrims Way.

UK Power Networks and KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a low voltage cable in the carriageway and a new soak away to prevent flooding. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of UKPN on 01622 632519 and Jamie Finch of KCC on 08458 247

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(YEOMAN LANE BEARSTED)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an order Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Yeoman Lane Bearsted, from The Orchard to near the junction of Oak Croft on or after Wednesday 11th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ware Street, Hogs Hill, Rose Acre lane, Tower lane and vice versa

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by essential pole replacements works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Rachel Cross on 03700500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE)
(WAITING RESTRICTION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION)
ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

Schedule 1
(Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places)

1. **BECKSBOURNE CLOSE**

(i) **Becksbourne Close**, both sides, from a point approximately 24metres northwards from its junction with Sandling Lane to a point 65metres northwards from its junction with Sandling Lane.

2. **CUCKOOWOOD AVENUE**

(i) **Cuckoowood Avenue** - From a point 10metres northwest of the centre of the junction with Sandling Lane to its junction with Sandbourne Drive in a north-easterly direction.

(ii) **Cuckoowood Avenue** - From a point 10metres southeast of the centre of the junction with Sandling Lane to its junction with Sandbourne Drive in a north-easterly direction.

3. **EMSWORTH GROVE**

(i) **Emsworth Grove**, both sides, from the existing double yellow lines to a point approximately 90metres in a south easterly and then a south westerly direction.

4. **HEATHFIELD ROAD**

(i) **Heathfield Road** - From a point 28metres northeast of the centre of the junction with Heathfield Close to a point approximately 56metres northwards of its junction with Heathfield Close.

(ii) **Heathfield Road** - From a point 91metres southeast of the centre of the junction with Heathfield Close to a point approximately 56metres northwards of its junction with Heathfield Close.

(iii) **Heathfield Road** - On the southern side from a point 14metres southeast of the centre of the junction with St Francis Close to a point 118metres southeast of the centre of the junction with St Francis Close.

5. **RUSHMEAD DRIVE**

(i) **Rushmead Drive**, both sides, from its junction with the A229 Loose Road westwards for a distance of approximately 17metres.

6. **SOUTHWAYS - SUTTON VALENCE**

(i) **Southways**, northern side, from a point approximately 10metres north of its junction with the A274 North Street westwards for a distance of approximately 17metres.

(ii) **Southways**, southern side, from a point approximately 10metres south of its junction with the A274 North Street westwards for a distance of approximately 17metres.

7. **TUDOR AVENUE**

(i) **Tudor Avenue** - northern side

a. From a point approximately 12metres north of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point approximately 66metres westwards from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road.

b. And from a point approximately 36metres east of the centre of the junction with Norman Close westwards to the existing double yellow line restrictions at its junction with Norman Close.

c. And from the existing double yellow lines on the western side of its junction with Norman Close for a distance of approximately 26metres westwards.

d. And from a point approximately 71metres northeast from its junction with Park Avenue south westwards to its junction with Park Avenue.

(ii) **Tudor Avenue** - southern side

a. From a point approximately 17metres south of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road westwards for approximately 60metres.

b. And from a point approximately 154metres westwards from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point approximately 153metres north east of its junction with Park Avenue.

c. And from a point approximately 71metres northeast from its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction to its junction with Park Avenue.

Schedule 2
(Waiting Restriction)

(iii) **Tudor Avenue** - northern side

a. From a point approximately 67metres west of its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road westwards to a point approximately 36metres east of the centre of its junction with Norman Close.

b. And from a point approximately 35metres west of the centre of its junction with Norman Close to a point approximately 71metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue.

(iv) **Tudor Avenue** - southern side

a. From a point approximately 60metres west of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road westwards to a point approximately 154metres from its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road.

b. And from a point approximately 153metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction to a point approximately 71metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 23rd April 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Dartford, Gravesham and In the District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, DARTFORD, GRAVESHAM, SEVENOAKS)
(50MPH SPEED RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the routes described in the Schedule.

The Order will become effective on Sunday 1st April 2012, and will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be in operation at times when required during this period as indicated by signage on site.

Schedule

Road Name:	A206 Bob Dunn Way, Dartford
Extent:	From the A282 to the roundabout with the A2026 Burnham Road
Road Name:	A289 Hasted Road, Gravesend (Wainscott Bypass)
Extent:	From M2 junction 1 to the Dillywood Lane Bridge
Road Name:	A2018 Shepherd Lane, Dartford
Extent:	From the roundabout of the A2 to the existing 40mph speed limit 100m before the roundabout with Rochester Way
Road Name:	A229 Bluebell Hill
Extent:	From the existing 50mph speed limit 30m Maidstone side of the Cobtree Manor Park entrance to the existing 50mph speed restriction 1/4mile from the M2 junction 3
Road Name:	A249 Detling Hill M2 to Bearsted Road, Maidstone
Extent:	From the roundabout with Bearsted Road (Newnham Court Farm) to existing 50mph speed limit 250m Detling side of Harple Lane From existing 50mph speed limit 40m Detling side of Osbourne Drive
Road Name:	A20 Ashford Road, Maidstone
Extent:	From Old Mill Road to 50m Ashford side of the roundabout with the B2163 Penfold Hill
Road Name:	A20 Coldharbour Lane, Maidstone
Extent:	From the roundabout of the M20 junction 5 to the roundabout of the A20 London Road From the A20 London Road to the roundabout with St Laurence Road
Road Name:	A228 Snodland Bypass
Extent:	From outside Whittings Farm to the existing 40mph outside the Water Treatment works
Road Name:	A228 Hale Street Bypass
Extent:	From the roundabout with the B2015 to the roundabout with the B2160 Maidstone Road
Road Name:	A25 Sevenoaks Road, Ightham
Extent:	From junction with Rectory Lane to the junction of Pilar Box Lane
Road Name:	A25 Ightham Bypass, Ightham
Extent:	From the junction of Rectory Lane to the junction of Borough Green Road
Road Name:	A20 London Road
Extent:	From M25 junction 3 to A225 Dartford Road
Road Name:	A225 Sevenoaks Road, Otford
Extent:	From Riverside Retail Park to Bebblestone Road

Kent County Council Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway maintenance works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Clark of Enterprise Plc on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Eynsford and Farningham as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	High Street, Eynsford Road, Eynsford
Extent:	Northbound from the entrance to Anthony Roper School to the junction with Gorse Hill. Southbound from 150 yards North of Priory Lane up to the entrance to Anthony Roper School.
Diversion:	N/A
Road Name:	High Street, Farningham
Extent:	In both directions between its junction with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.
Road Name:	Sparepenny Lane, Farningham
Extent 1:	In both directions between its junction with High Street, Farningham and Riverside.
Diversion:	from Wested Lane/Crockenhill Lane via the A20 and Eynsford Road.
Road Name:	Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford
Extent 1:	In both directions between Riverside and Lullingstone Castle.
Diversion:	N/A
Road Name:	Castle Road, Eynsford
Extent 1:	In both directions between the South side of the entrance to Lullingstone Park Visitors Centre and the junction with Castle Farm Road.
Diversion:	via High Street, Shoreham and the A225.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 26 March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 06.00 - 22.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

Extent: Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.

Restriction: Suspend Cycle Lane Order from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.

Road Name: A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.

Extent 1: Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.

Extent 2: Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.

Diversion: Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.

Restriction: No Right Turn from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.

1: Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

2: Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

Dates: 1st April, 9th April, 20th May, 22nd July, 14th October, 21st October and 4th November 2012.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

CLOCK HOUSE LEVEL CROSSING, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace the rails at the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clock House Level Crossing, Boughton, on or after 1 April 2012, as shown below.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 1 April at 2.00 am until Monday 2 April 2012 at 2.00 am.

Clockhouse Lane, Boughton will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ST JOHN'S ROAD AND PRINCES CRESCENT, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St John's Road and Princes Crescent, Margate, on or after 2 April 2012, as described below.

ST JOHN'S ROAD will be closed at the junction with Victoria Road from 2 April 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of St John's Road, between the junctions with Princes Crescent and Victoria Road' to allow traffic to exit via Princes Crescent.

PRINCES CRESCENT will then be closed at its northern junction with Victoria Road from 16 April 2012 for up to 2 weeks.

A One-way Traffic Order will be imposed in respect of Princes Crescent, so that traffic can only drive southbound towards Victoria Road.

The alternative route for northbound traffic is via St John's Road.

The timings of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may be affected by weather and ground conditions.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COPT HALL ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Copt Hall Road Ightham, from the junction of Common road to Silverdown on or after Thursday12th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 Days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Common Road, Sandy Lane, Coach Road, Sevenoaks Road and Redwell lane and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary to enable access to replace telegraph poles. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SUMMERVALE ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Summervale Road between Eastlands and A26 Eridge Road on or after Wednesday 11th April 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A26 Eridge Road, Ramslye Road, Friezland Road, Summervale Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for safety critical carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sue Laporte on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BIDBOROUGH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1
(Restricted Roads)

B2176 Penshurst Road/Rogues Hill	From a point 175 metres northwest of its junction with Poundsbridge Lane 255 metres northwest towards the Tunbridge Wells Borough boundary.
High Street, Bidborough (Franks Hollow Road)	From its junction with B2176 Bidborough Ridge southwards to a point 260 metres south of its junction with Glebelands.
B2176 Bidborough Ridge (Penshurst Road)	From a point 125 metres east of its junction with Woodland Way; and to a point 245 metres west of its junction with High Street.

Schedule 2
(Roads subject to a speed limit of 40 mph)

B2176 Penshurst Road	From a point 175 metres northwest of its junction with Poundsbridge Lane eastwards for 410 metres.
C40 Poundsbridge Lane	From its junction with Penshurst Road southwards for 415 metres.
B2176 Bidborough Ridge	From its junction with A26 London Road to a point 125 metres east of its junction with Woodland Way; and from a point 245 metres west of its junction with High Street for a distance of 355 metres.
C46 Barden Road	From a point 640 metres south of its junction with B2176 Penshurst Road southwards to the Speldhurst Parish boundary.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 25th March 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BARR
Abbi and Stephen are proud to announce the birth of their son Alfie Barr on the 1st March 2012 at Darent Valley Hospital . All our love Mum and Dad XXX

BRETT
Lee, Sarah and Rosie are pleased to announce the birth of Zack George Brett on 13th March 2012.

EDWARDES
Matthew and Suzanne Edwardes are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Faith Starla Edwardes who was born on 2nd March 2012.

FOX-PERCY
Lowri and Henning celebrate the birth of their son Elis Edward Fox-Percy. Born on 2nd March 2012.

GOSLING
David and Rebecca Gosling are proud to announce the birth of Mason Gosling. Born on 9th February 2012

MARTIN
Kim and Paul Martin celebrate the birth of their son Aaron Blake Martin on 6th March 2012

DEATHS

ATKINS
Joan Atkins died peacefully on 21st February 2012. Funeral service at Farningham Church at 11am on 26th March. Family flowers only. Donations made payable to Great Ormond Street Hospital may be sent to 8 Russett Close, Aylesford ME20 7PL.

KITCHENER
Henry Lewis Kitchener on 21st February 2012, aged 81. Dearly loved father of Paul and Chris. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium at 1.20pm on 20th March 2012. Family flowers only, but donations may be made.

PARMENTER
Doreen (Billie) Parmenter died peacefully on 4th March 2012 aged 92. Dearly loved mother of Ian, Laurence and Simon, grandmother of Daniel, Alan and Lois.

To advertise in this section
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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Growing festival that could give us all something to smile about

SEE PAGE 43

ARMADA THAN YOU

How Tudor Brits lined up to prepare for big fight with the Spanish

SEE PAGE 53

Kent Weekend

A woman's world

How every mum can bring out her inner goddess

SEE PAGE 50

PLUS: One diner cries out for new restaurants to show more individual flair - **food and drink p45** Enjoy far-reaching views when you move into new pad - **property p54** Hyundai continues to impress with i30 - **driving p58**

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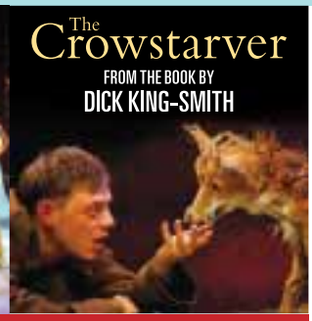

THE CROWSTARVER
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MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT
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ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
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BETTE AND JOAN
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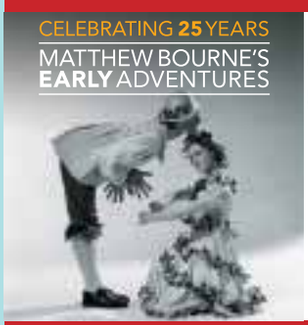

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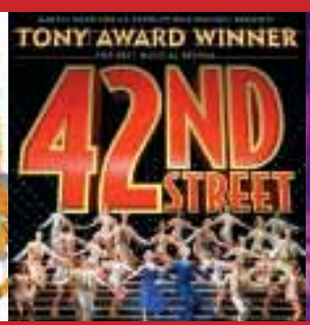

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THE INTERVIEW

Fuse Medway Festival

Charge of the arts brigade

Lelia Greci talks to **Joe Bill** about blending some of Europe's finest outdoor acts with the emerging talent of Kent's largest conurbation

ONE of the more recent events to have swung its way on to the county's leisure calendar is Fuse Medway Festival.

Taking place every June for the last seven years, the festival has developed its appeal to performance and arts fans around Kent, and this year, with the help of a new face, the show could become yet bigger.

Lelia Greci has taken over as artistic director of Fuse Festival, bearing an impressive CV that features work on the Manchester International Festival as well as the Festival For Culture Shock as part of the Commonwealth Games.

Greci, who grew up in Le Mans, France, is keen to put her stamp on the festivities and make sure that interest in Fuse grows significantly.

She said: "I would like it to be bigger and better. The idea is to embed the festival locally but inform it internationally.

"I am French, so I am always interested in what is going on in continental Europe. I am also interested in what is going on in England with outdoor arts.

"Fuse has to be strong locally, getting local people involved, but I also want to bring in the most exciting outdoor art from elsewhere in the UK and continental Europe.

"At the moment, Fuse is still in the early days – the audience is mainly from the area.

"A lot of people will travel from around Kent to Medway for the day, but ultimately, as the festival grows, the idea is to attract people from a further distance, especially as the tourism infrastructure develops in Medway as well.

"Fuse will grow with Medway, and Medway will grow with Fuse."

Greci arrived in Medway shortly before last year's festival after a stint at Crawley Borough Council coordinating the leisure activities at its theatres and open spaces.

And the performance fanatic has taken over the reins to secure funding for this year's event, something that's very much on schedule.

She said: "It is going very well. We have sent our application bids to Arts Council England, who are one of our two main funders.

"The funding from Medway Council has been agreed as well, so that's 60 per cent of our funding confirmed now."

ALL SMILES: Lelia Greci is using her experience of prestigious events to develop Fuse Medway Festival

The Fuse team will also commission £10,000 to three new acts looking to take the festival by storm this year, known as the Spark Commissions.

"We have a programme of three local art commissions and they have now been short-listed," said Greci.

"Every year we commission three locally-based artists or companies to create new work about Medway, relevant to its community. They have to be interactive and outdoor for everyone.

"We have received a good number of ideas and have invited a few of them to come and talk to us about them.

"The idea is to nurture creative talent and give them opportunities to develop the practices in Medway. There are also three universities in the towns. We want to provide working opportunities to those emerging artists and students who have chosen to study here, too."

Fuse was initially created seven years ago as a ticketed indoor arts festival that was spread across a whole month, something from which the new artistic director is continuing to move away.

She said: "Until last year the format of the festival was over three weeks and all across Medway, but I think it spread the resources too thinly.

"Now it is over just three days of a weekend and across three of the towns, so it is much more focused.

"It is easier to communicate with the audience and it is much more impactful, and that is what we want to build upon.

"All the activities for Fuse are to be free. That is the precept of the festival: to make it as accessible as possible. Open to everybody in the county."

The team has also commissioned the Central School Of Beat And Drama in London to produce site-specific, family-friendly shows using creative performers from the Medway towns.

This year's show will also feature the No Fit State Circus extravaganza, a well-known big-top performance company which will use young people from the area in its show.

"Young people from Medway take part in circus workshops every week, put on by Medway Council," said Greci. "Those young people will develop confidence and skills and will perform in the circus show this summer."

The theme of any festival is an important issue, as the director explained: "This year the theme will be the river. The parade on the Friday will have a strong river theme and involve large projects from the universities."

But most important, says Greci, is the fact that it is free and open to everyone.

"It is a fantastic opportunity to engage in the arts for the very first time for some people. They are people who wouldn't take a financial risk on these events but can come along and see it without paying out. If it is outdoor and free, it removes all the barriers."

• Fuse Medway Festival runs from Friday to Sunday, June 15-17. As a lower-key precursor to the main event, Lighting The Fuse is scheduled for Monday to Thursday, June 11-14. Visit www.fusefestival.org.uk for details.

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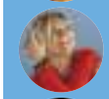

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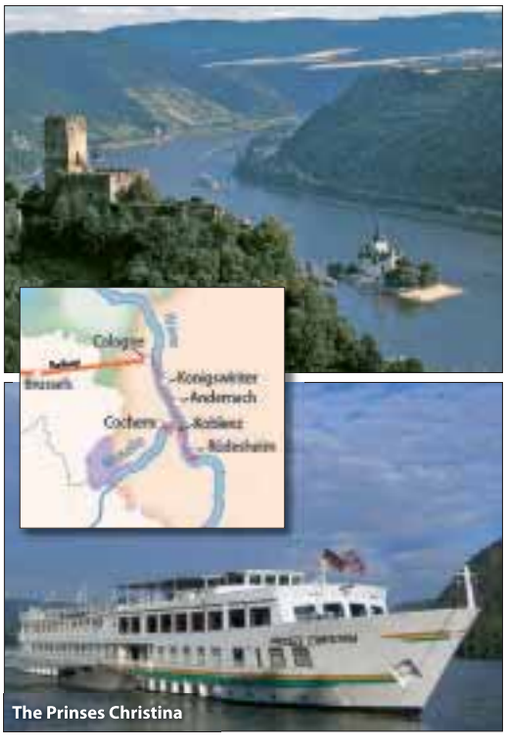

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Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

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Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

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Jeff Hooper's Big Band

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Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island

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- **Gunton Hall**, Suffolk Coast 30 Apr - £199pp (was £274) - Quote GH4-DEXP

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Venue fills city's latest void but lacks any spark of individuality

FOR many town and city centres, the departure of a business from the high street creates either an eyesore or an opportunity for a charity emporium to set up shop. In parts of Canterbury, however, the departure of a shop-front is almost inevitably followed by the arrival of a new restaurant.

And since The Marlowe Theatre emerged from its chrysalis in all its swanky new splendour, the Westgate Towers end of the main thoroughfare is falling over itself to offer a tasty treat to the hungry theatre-goer or tourist.

Those restaurants able to meet the no-doubt-enormous rental costs for such a prime area tend to be the big chains. Cue the latest arrival: Chimichanga (it's Spanish for 'thingymajig', apparently). A spin-off from the Prezzo stable.

Sited in what was once the city's post office, it is a modern affair that delivers a slice of Mexican grub through a walkway that sails perilously close to looking like you're stepping into a gaudy homage to an Indiana Jones film.

Inside, however, it conforms to the expected look and feel of today's modern chain restaurants. There's wooden floors, soft lighting, high-ceilings spacious, well-designed table layout... think Prezzo but with a Latin American twist.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Of course, the décor is no guarantee of top food quality and, just like its big-chain parent and rivals, it's fair to say you enter with your sights lowered accordingly when it comes to what targets your taste buds might hit.

Everything is tasty, yet unremarkable.

Starters of Portobello mushrooms in batter (£4.95) are juicy – but the batter heavy and soulless; the calamari (£5.95) a little chewy; and the crab cakes (£5.50) light and tasty but lacking any sort of zing.

The main meals are more adventurous affairs. Fajitas arrive with tiger prawns (£14.50) sizzling and with an array of sauces and a selection of tortillas, while the smoky barbecue chicken from the chargrill section (£11.95) makes up in taste what it lacks in good looks – the chicken arrives almost freeze-dried in a slice of cheese suffocating a mushroom, with the obligatory side-serving of fries.

But let's not get all sniffy. If you want gourmet grub, then the scale and colourful menus will quickly inform you this isn't for you.

However, if you want something a bit different to the all-too-regular strains of some sort of Italian cooking in Canterbury, then Chimichanga fills a void. It has a bustle about it and the staff are efficient and friendly.

Yet while there are some positives, there is much it could do to improve, too.

On the date of the review, for example, in the men's toilets all the handles on the taps were broken, making it impossible to wash your hands – inexcusable in a restaurant.

What's more, you just cry out for a little individuality – as with all these chains – rather than simply following the national stencil.

Good but no big fat Cuban cigar quite yet.

Chris Thomson

■ **Chimichanga, 9 High Street, Canterbury CT1 2AZ. Telephone: 01227 459550**

BBC chef Martin cooks up a treat at Bluewater

JAMES Martin, host of BBC's Saturday Kitchen, appeared at Bluewater shopping centre this week as part of a preview to the upcoming Good Food Show, which is set to be held in April.

The celebrity chef performed live cooking demonstrations and tastings and met fans at the new Glow venue.

He appeared alongside wine expert Olly Smith and Kent's very own TV chef Mark Sargeant.

The BBC Good Food Show, which offers stalls, cooking tips and utensils for foodie fans, will be at Bluewater for 2012; in previous years it has appeared at Birmingham's NEC.

Martin said: "It was nice to be able to get down here, do some demonstrations and really get a feel for the place ahead of the show.

"It is more intimate here – at the NEC most of the chefs don't get to go around and see the stalls because it is such a large venue. We are going to have top chefs from all over the country coming down to talk about their techniques and tips up on the stage.

"We will be bringing down a minaturised version of the Saturday Kitchen as well for two of the days, so it should be great."

The show takes place from Thursday to Monday, April 12-15, and willl include celebrity chef appearances as well as book signings.

"There is always a bit of friendly rivalry between the chefs. It's a task to get Gino D'Acampo to keep to his time limit," said Martin.

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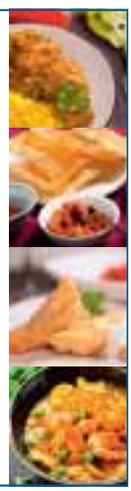

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Across the county

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Surrounded in history, the pub dates back to the 1300s and still contains many original features. The pub offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently-changing seasonal specials.

Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well-established pub garden with many historical features and a large play area for children.

There is a traditional Sunday roast every week, steak night on Wednesday and Thursday and pensioners' special every Wednesday lunchtime.

For Sunday lunch you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 and three courses for £15.50.

You can choose from a selection of meats, including pork, lamb, and beef, from midday to 8pm. On Saturday, March 31, there will be the James Bond 50th-anniversary charity bash featuring a stylish casino night. The evening starts at 7pm, with card tables followed by quality buffet band Coco and a funk disco from 9.30pm. Tickets are priced at £25 and numbers are limited to 80.

■ **The Red Lion, Church Hill, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, website www.theredlion.org)**

CHEF RECOMMENDS

ACORN INN: Telephone: 01843 841196
Starter: Fresh smoked salmon and king prawns served on a bed of mixed salad with dressing.
Main: Cannon of lamb served with fresh vegetables, new potatoes and a port and red currant jus .
Dessert: A selection of home-made deserts available.
THE RED LION: Telephone: 01227 751207
Starter: Pan-fried pigeon breast in butter and black pepper.
Main: Slow roasted lamb shank on the bone; lamb on the bone baked in the oven until tender on a bed of mashed potatoes, served with minted peas.
Dessert: Pecan pie.
HYTHE BRASSERIE: Telephone: 01303 267912
Starter: Tempura battered monkfish with hot 'n' sour dip.
Main: Roman roasted shoulder of lamb with garlic, rosemary and anchovies.
Dessert: White chocolate and Bailey's pot with hazelnut shortbread.
CHIVES ON THE GREEN: Telephone: 01227 832637
Starter: A steamed roll of local cod and house smoked salmon on fine handmade noodles with alight wasabi and lemon broth.
Main: Pork fillet stuffed with wild mushrooms and rocket, wrapped in parma ham and encased in a puff pastry collar, on a potato rosti with calvados jus.
Dessert: 'Chives on the Green' five morsels of dessert on one plate: Ice-cream filled profiterole with warm chocolate caramel; Almond and orange cake with orange sauce; Baked white chocolate and berry cheesecake with berry compote; Vanilla pannacotta with date sauce and tuile biscuit; Ginger pudding with ginger sauce and honeycomb

BEAUTIFUL SETTING: Chives on the Green at Broome Park has made a name for itself with an excellent atmosphere and innovative cooking ideas

Chives at Broome Park is ready for green summer

THIS family-run operation, which has been going for more than 20 years, has grown a reputation for wonderful, innovative food teamed with excellent service and event-planning, allowing clients to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

In 2011 the group, which owned Waltham Court Hotel until 2004, was invited to take over the entire catering operation at Broome Park and has not looked back.

It revelled in the prospect of having a venue for weddings and events as well as the restaurant and bar while, of course, looking after the golf club and its members.

The team aims to be all things to all men to all guests by having the right people in the right places, bringing experience to the various facilities of Broome Park.

The group believes in putting equal energy into all parts of the business, including the flourishing outside catering arm.

Head chef Graham Green had previously been at the helm of award-winning restaurant The Green Herring in Canberra, Australia, for 20 years before joining the Chives team in 2008.

The Chives restaurant at Broome Park specialises in creating innovative food from local produce using creative chefs.

There is a friendly and efficient service combined with a stunning setting. Just the fact that everything is produced from scratch means that catering for any dietary requirement is never a problem; for example, there is a gluten-free range.

Just some of the events that the team produces include pie-and-pudding night on Tuesdays, followed by a quiz in the Great Hall, and there are set to be many barbecues during the summer months.

The restaurant is open for lunches on Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and from midday to 3pm on Sundays.

During the evenings the venue is open Monday to Wednesday 6pm-8pm and Thursday to Sunday 6pm-9pm. The team also believes that opening at 6pm allows more families to come in and not have to eat too late.

■ **Chives on the Green, Broome Park, Canterbury Road, Barham CT4 6QX (phone 01227 832637, web www.chivescaterers.co.uk)**

Acorn Inn... restaurant food at pub prices

THE Acorn Inn is a little pub with a lovely, friendly and comfortable atmosphere.

All the staff are warm and welcoming and offer a great place for a family meal with good food and good prices.

It has been said that The Acorn Inn is one of the best-kept secrets in Thanet because of a few key reasons.

All of the food on the menu is cooked on the premises, on the day, keeping it as fresh and delicious as possible. All of the meats used in the dishes are sourced from the nearby Preston butchers and all of the produce is both fresh and locally sourced.

If you require a special meal for a special occasion that isn't on the menu, then, providing you give the team 24 hours' notice, it will do its best to deliver your request.

The group has just celebrated its third year anniversary at The Acorn Inn.

The pub offers steak nights every Thursday and they have proved to be very successful.

There are also main meals available from £4.75 and lunchtime meals from £3.95, meaning The Acorn is affordable for all!

The Sunday roast is very popular, so you will need to book in advance. One course is £7.95, two courses £9.95 and three courses £11.95, with meals served between midday and 4.30pm.

Desserts change regularly because they are all home-made. The restaurant is open at lunchtimes from midday-2.30pm from Tuesday to Saturday and during the evenings from 5.30pm-8.30pm Monday to Thursday.

On Friday and Saturday nights, food is available from 5.30pm-9pm.

Put simply, The Acorn Inn offers good restaurant food at pub prices.

■ **Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0AW (phone 01843 841196)**

A selection to leave county diners in awe

CONFIRMED as one of the real UK hotbeds of culinary talent, Kent has more to offer from its wide range of menus than ever before.

The Garden of England fills restaurants and pubs across the county with fresh fruits, locally-sourced produce and meals that cater for almost any requirement.

The choice of dishes for diners in the area is greater than ever before.

Whether it is strictly business with a meal to stimulate the taste buds as well as the conversation, or a relaxed long meal with family and friends, there is always something for everyone.

Here is a selection of excellent venues all offering something different yet with one thing in common – a commitment to culinary excellence and impeccable service.

Many of the county's venues pride themselves on serving top-quality Kentish produce – whether it be locally-caught fish, Romney Marsh lamb, home-produced beef, or the strawberries, cherries, apples and plums from the rolling fields and orchards that make our county so special.

The choice is vast and an à la carte menu is the ideal way to ensure that diners have the chance to experience the lot.

And when it comes to something to wash down the meal – what better than delicious Kentish wines, ales or ciders? They are among the best produced anywhere in Britain and justly famous for their wonderful quality.

So which venue to choose? Here are six of the best...

Gurkha Palace
Folkestone

Why here...
An authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines.
The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise that the menu is vast. Relax and enjoy a meal this Easter.

On the menu...
Excellent food has seen it nominated as best Nepalese restaurant in the country by The Good Food Guide.
Highly commended by the Channel Chamber in the best-customer-service category.

How to book...
97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley Shopping Centre), Folkestone CT20 3NE
phone: 01303 251100

The Acorn
Birchington

Why here...
The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...
The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

How to book...
The Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196
Book to avoid disappointment!

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county.
With the menus changing on a regular basis, the London Beach team uses local producers where possible.
The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience, with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent.
It is the ideal venue for fun family gatherings either large or small.

On the menu...
Start your meal with Rye Bay scallops, creamed leeks and truffle dressing followed by roasted breast of pheasant, confit leg, cauliflower purée and terrine of Dauphinoise.
Top your meal off with Champagne panacotta with vanilla poached rhubarb.
There is something to suit all the family.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX3
phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernehill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food.
Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...
Take the family for a popular Sunday lunch where you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 and three for £15.50. Choose from pork, lamb or beef, served with all the trimmings.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

World's Wonder
Warehorne

Why here...
The World's Wonder sits in a beautiful area of countryside and offers a true rural eating experience.
The pub is just a short walk from Romney Marsh, sitting between Hamstreet and Tenterden.
It has a more modern-looking façade these days, but hiding behind it is a history that reaches back more than a century. A glorious fusion of modern and traditional!

On the menu...
The food is both cooked on the premises and sourced locally, with free-range meat and poultry all supplied by a local farmer.
All dishes are home-made, including the famous steak-and-kidney pie and rabbit-and-bacon pie.
Vegetarian options are available.

How to book...
Bookings taken through the website, www.worldswonder. co.uk; alternatively, you can phone on 01233 732431

First and Last
Herne Common

Why here...
A great service from friendly staff is the norm; this pub offers a fantastic choice of food, real ales and wines.
The function room offers a great party and event venue, but any visit is a special one.

On the menu...
Traditional food served at lunchtime, including sandwiches and baguettes. An evening à la carte menu offers dishes such as roasted duck breast with peppercorn sauce and fresh vegetables.

How to book...
The First and Last, Herne Common, Herne Bay CT6 7JU
phone: 01227 364465

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

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6 – 9 April

This Easter, Leeds Castle has got the key to a perfect weekend of family fun.

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leeds-castle.com

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or email: info@kentevents.org.uk

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BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Friday 16th March 2012 @ 7:30pm

- Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens
- Directed by Adam Morley • Consultant Gerald Dickens

Tickets: Adult £15, Concession £13, Child £10
Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Chatham, ME4 4LL
Box Office: 01634 890421 • www.dickensworld.co.uk

Time for Tea

A new 'Good Old Days' live show

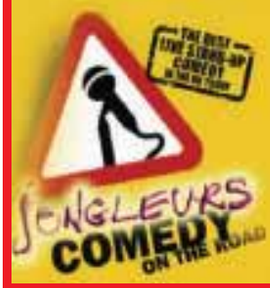
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.

Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.

*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches

Next Show **Wednesday 21st March 2012**

For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



JONGLEURS COMEDY NIGHTS

Friday 2nd March 2012
Friday 30th March 2012
Friday 27th April 2012

Tickets from £10.80
Visit Dickens World or call 01634 890421

Tom O'Connor & The Vintage Corporation
A night of Top Class Comedy and Music from the 60s & 70s
Saturday 2nd June 2012 - Britannia Theatre
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ODEON at Dickens World

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Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (U)
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Ghost Rider 3D : Spirit of Vengeance (12A)
Jack & Jill (PG)
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (12A)
One for the Money (12A)
Safe House (15)
Star Wars Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace 3D
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)
The Grey (15)
The Muppets (U)
The Vow (12A)
The Women in Black (12A)
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ODEON KIDS - Rango (PG)
SENIOR SCREEN
Footloose (12A)
NEWBIES
One for the Money (12A)
OTHER CINEMA
Shame (18)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

The X-Factor swagger
Cher Lloyd plays live

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Thursday, March 29, 7pm
0844 871 3015
www.atgtickets.com/venue/Leas-Cliff-Hall

X-FACTOR star Cher Lloyd is to take her swagger on the road with the announcement of her first UK tour.
A protege of Cheryl Cole, Lloyd finished fourth in the 2010 series of the hit reality show, but, like so many other runners-up, she has gone on to bag a No 1 single and a record deal.
Her individual style and outspoken opinions mean Lloyd regularly features in the Press.
Her debut single Swagger Jagger went straight to the top of the charts and has picked up more than 50 million views on YouTube.
The show will doubtless feature songs from her debut album Sticks & Stones.
Tickets are priced at £16.50.

Mother's day with a twist
Star Monroe

Village Hotel, Maidstone
Sunday, March 25
01622 769365
www.howtobeawoman.com

TRY something new this weekend by taking your mum to a How To Be A Woman event hosted by women's guru Goddess Star Monroe.
The day is designed to inspire and motivate mums of all ages with lively workshops for confidence tricks and tips and daily glamour secrets for the busy woman.
There are also burlesque movement classes, complimentary pampering from beauty experts, bra-fitting, free hair makeovers, make-up demos, foot detox and massage.
Star said: "The event is the perfect opportunity for mums to indulge and be pampered – it's a day dedicated to their needs."
Tickets are available online.

Useless stuff
The inventions that flopped

Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood
01892 839039
www.mascallsgallery.org

AN exhibition at Mascalls Gallery in Paddock Wood will see one of Kent's hottest young artists show off his Warehouse Of Failed Invention.
Mark Selby will transform the white cube gallery into an industrial warehouse with a series of rooms and corridors for the visitor to explore.
Within the spaces will be strange and useless objects, including a Hubbard electrometer, a portable sauna and a cat-mew machine.
Later this year the UCA lecturer's work will be on show at Kunstpavillon in Munich.
Mascalls has also displayed work by Marc Chagall, Henry Moore and LS Lowry.
The exhibition will remain open until Thursday, April 5.

Mouth artists
The Magnets stick together

The Orchard, Dartford
Thursday, April 12, 7.30pm
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

DESCRIBED as a six-man sound machine, The Magnets make incredible music using only their mouths.
Heading to The Orchard Theatre next month, their talent is for extraordinary arrangements that radically restyle songs by artists ranging from Elvis Costello to Adele.
The group use vocal stunts, cool moves and engaging humour – but absolutely no musical instruments – during their performances.
Highlights of the new show include a sultry version of Lost In Music by Sister Sledge and a mash-up of New Order's Blue Monday, as well as Rhianna's hit single, Only Girl.
Audience members can choose from bands, movies and adverts in the request section, while the latest EP, Human, will be on sale at the show.
Tickets are priced at £17.

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www.newromneycaravanpark.co.uk

SCHOOL'S OUT

Host of opportunities on your doorstep

SPRING is now here and with it the chance for the family to enjoy the sunshine and the longer daylight hours.

With schools preparing for Easter half-term, days out are one of the best ways of getting everyone together to enjoy the superb countryside that Kent has to offer.

Lambs are traditionally associated with the Easter season and many farms will be putting on special events to show off the latest additions to their flocks.

Around this time of year many gardens open for the season and the newly-blooming flowers will provide a riot of colour to enjoy.

Carpets of flowers are also one of the major attractions of the county's many woods and a stroll under the trees is a great way to welcome in the new season.

Many tourist attractions also open for the season at Easter, so with the huge variety of castles, stately homes and parks in Kent there is never a shortage of places to go.

With Easter eggs one of the great traditions of the season, how better than to walk off that extra chocolate than taking a stroll along the coast?

Beaches are great at this time of year as they are far less crowded than in the forthcoming months.

While the water might not be warm enough for swimming, there are still games to be played on the wide open sands, while rides and fairground attractions will have opened for the first time in seaside towns.

So take the chance to enjoy the county in all its glory as it wakes up to the warmer weather.

With the longer days, evenings are becoming a time for family fun as well, so a meal or even a picnic if the weather is favourable can round off a great day welcoming the joys of spring.

With the promise of summer just over the horizon, the family can take the opportunity to explore some of the sites across the county with which they are not so familiar – they won't be as busy as during the summer months, so everyone can really take the time to appreciate what they have to offer.

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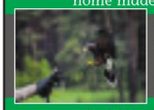
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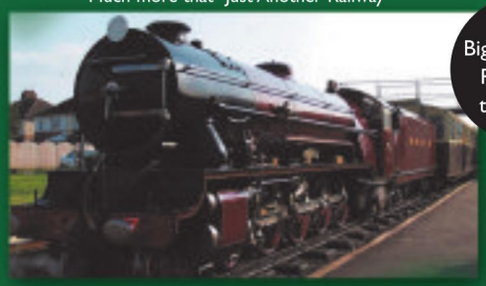
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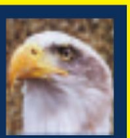
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WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

TARA charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383121**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

DEBBIE slim blonde special female who loves all the good things life has to offer, seeks no strings fun with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383893**

KIM 37, employed, OHAC, long legs, attractive, sensual, seeks genuine male for romance, fun meets and more. call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383891**

ATTRACTIVE honey blonde, 56, green eyes, curvy, well educated, works full time, solvent, seeks professional guy to share finer things in life and put sparkle back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382365**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

SERENE affable, attractive, slim, black female, 37, enjoys reading, nature, theatre, music, sport, seeks genuine, caring gent, 34-47 for conversation, companionship, laughter and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351**

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349**

SEXY black beauty Lucy, 33, WLTM clean solvent male for daytime fun together and mutual spoiling. Cannot accommodate, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385347**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive naughty female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded naughty boy for fun times. Can be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

FRAN early 60's, long dark hair, green eyes, seeks guy 52-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385769**

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655**

DEBS slim attractive stylish naughty 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653**

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! Loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651**

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with discreet loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597**

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laidback relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595**

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! Must have a GSOH and own home, I will provide the entertainment! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593**

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, very discreet, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049**

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTM genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047**

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

JO discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

CAT 37 slim, athletic open minded feline seeks mate 20-45 for good times, laughs and spontaneous fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379563**

LADY young 50's, blonde, green eyes, 5ft 7ins, seeks male with GSOH, good looks for companionship, friendship, with country house or farm. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388548**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

MAVE young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378799**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

GENUINE racy female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

WARM hearted woman, 48, seeks man with GSOH, late 40's to early 50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380277**

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041**

CHAR 19yr old curvy blue eyed petite blonde with cheeky SOH, very lonely and looking for mature male for adult fun/texts. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383895**

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

SIMON 53, N/S, OHAC, understanding, reliable, seeks female 35-60 for company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384521**

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

TOM 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169**

MALE 51, seeks attractive 40-50's female with GSOH for friendship and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383851**

ED 57, smart, GSOH, likes cooking, DIY, computer games, travel, looking for female for LTR and to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383839**

GOOD looking male, seeks female for fun times, leading to possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389190**

EDUCATED professional man seeks interesting lady, 60 plus for laughter, good company, conversation and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383549**

TIM 43, tall, slim, looking for female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389450**

MARK 45, 5ft 10ins, handsome, great physique, intelligent, N/S, seeks discreet passionate female, younger or older for coffee mornings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389438**

SLIM businessman, well groomed, seeks assertive, stylish lady for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389434**

MALE 51, slim-medium build, likes cars, motorbikes, golf, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389564**

ROMANTIC handsome, professional male, 47, beautiful home, excellent lifestyle, seeks attractive lady to cherish and protect from life's adversities. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389690**

CARING slim male, 51, dark hair, seeks female, 47-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389876**

SINGLE guy 46, 5ft 10ins, blond, blue eyes, seeks younger, slim-mish female for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389872**

OUTGOING loving, caring male, likes fun times, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389864**

CHRIS 61, loves animals, travel, cooking, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389818**

STEVE 56, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389798**

SINGLE male, mature, WLTM slim, petite lady, 40-65 for adventurous relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386455**

42YR old male, seeking slim, attractive female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386341**

STEVE tall businessman, late 40's, GSOH, seeks slim female, any age for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389958**

BUSINESSMAN 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks young Oriental woman, N/S, no ties for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383603**

DEAN 6ft, brown hair/eyes, clean shaven, seeks female, 18-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386773**

GENT 60, widower, kind, caring, GSOH, sincere, solvent, varied interests, WLTM lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384721**

ME 56 fit, broadminded, easygoing, seeks lady, 50-68 who wants all action man for friend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384899**

NIGEL 61, fit, likes cinema, theatre, music, outdoors, seeks female, 30-50 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389610**

MARK 6ft, slim-medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female for dates, good times and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385981**

COUNTRY loving male, 60, retired slave, likes gardening, DIY, scrabble, needs regular weekend training. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389676**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

BI guy submissive, late 40's, slim, seeks older dominant guy to yield to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389256**

33YR old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236**

SUB bi guy 59, well built, seeks male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389106**

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465**

40YR old male, 5ft 11ins, slim, fit, likes outdoors, seeks sub guy for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389802**

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Trains, planes, automobiles... and cathedrals

Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate
Open daily from 10am-5pm
01843 233524

THE Hornby Visitor Centre opened in July 2010 and since then it has seen more than 58,000 visitors.
It features rare products from classic model-producer Hornby, including items from the Scalextric, Airfix and Corgi archives. Visitors will be able to see stunning model rail layouts and also try their skills on a superb Scalextric Digital circuit.
This really is every man's dream, and for a limited time only there is also a unique collection of original architectural models of English and European cathedrals by the Oxford model-maker William Gorringe dating from 1840-1850.
The cathedral exhibition, which is predicted to be a big draw, is due to close in late July 2012.
The Hornby Visitor Centre also has a retail shop and mini-café, both open to the public.
You can get more details about the centre at www.hornby.com/hornby-visitor-centre.

Olympic glories take rural centre stage

Golden duo act the part

Kent Life, Sandling, Maidstone
Saturday, March 31, 6pm
01622 621249
www.kentlife.org.uk

KENT Life is hosting a performance of Chalkfoot's acclaimed new play Running For Glory, based on the film Chariots Of Fire, at its agricultural store in Sandling.
The timely play takes a nostalgic look back at the 1924 Paris Olympics as it follows the lives and ambitions of Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, two iconic athletes who won gold for Britain.
Running For Glory has been written specially to tour rural venues in Kent and Sussex, and the show's audience is promised free tractor rides to and from the venue.
Visitors will also get the opportunity to sit among the museum's fascinating collection of historical Kentish artefacts, some previously unseen by the general public, as they watch the show.
Tickets are priced at £12 (£10 concessions).

The Armada cometh

Tudors ready for battle

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge
Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, midday-4pm
01892 870307; www.penshurstplace.com

LIFE in 1588 just as the Spanish Armada threatens to invade England is being re-created at Penshurst Place.
The household readies itself for the anticipated invasion and a skilled cast of actors and musicians portrays colourful Tudor characters.
Visitors can take up arms and join the local militia with a musket and pike drill and will hear how the country prepared for the Armada.
There is the opportunity to try on fine Elizabethan-style clothes of the period and see what people would have eaten and drunk.

Chinese skills extravaganza

Cirque du Ciel

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Sun and Mon, April 25-26
01634 338338
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

THE internationally-acclaimed production of ShangHi by Cirque du Ciel returns to the UK by popular demand.
With more than 30 skilled performers, the two-hour show combines acrobatics, modern dance, martial arts, original music and many other traditional and contemporary Chinese elements.
Cirque du Ciel's ShangHi features an enchanting storyline, taking visitors on a journey through the mysterious dreams of a little girl as she delves into her fantasies.
Routines include Mexican hat-juggling, aerial displays and the famous, death-defying Chinese monkey.
Also, don't miss the brilliant drumming to fascinate audiences of all ages.

CROSSKEYS
Life's a journey. Take your seat.

Day Trips

March		Adult	Child
Wed 28	Ideal Home Exhibition	29.00	11.00
Sat 31	De Panne	22.50	19.00
April			
Mon 2	Afternoon Cite Europe	16.00	12.50
Thurs 5	The Making of Harry Potter	47.50	39.50
Sat 7	Disneyland Paris	74.00	69.00
Wed 11	London Zoo	29.00	23.00
Wed 11	London Day Out	18.50	15.50
Thurs 12	Legoland	36.00	29.00
Thurs 12	Windsor	18.00	14.00
Sat 14	De Panne	22.50	19.00
Sun 15	Big Stamp & Scrapbooking Show	25.00	19.00
Thurs 19	Boulogne	26.50	19.00
Sat 21	Turner Contemporary, Margate	13.50	9.50
Sun 22	London Eye, Carvery Lunch & Cruise	66.00	59.00
Mon 23	Borde Hill Gardens	30.00	25.00
Tues 24	Dobbies, Ashford	9.50	9.50
Fri 27	BBC TV Tour & Westfield	29.00	19.00
Sat 28	Southend on Sea	19.00	12.00
Sun 29	Bruges	35.50	29.00

Short Breaks

Fri 6 Apr	3 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£269
Fri 22 Jun	3 nights HB	Charming Cotswolds	£232
Mon 9 Jul	4 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£345
Sat 4 Aug	1 night HB	Alton Towers	£125
Fri 17 Aug	1 night B&B	Brussels Carpet of Flowers	£128
Fri 7 Sept	3 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£269
Fri 28 Sept	3 nights HB	Charms of Chester	£248
Mon 8 Oct	4 nights HB	The New Forest & Titanic Experience	£335
Mon 19 Nov	1 night HB	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	£129
Mon 26 Nov	4 nights HB	Bournemouth Turkey & Tinsel	£266

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HOMES

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An open and shutter case for homes

WINDOW shutters are one of the big trends in 2012 – and it's easy to see why.

They make any window a feature and offer an excellent alternative to curtains, bringing both privacy and light control.

So this classic and stylish alternative to blinds looks set to be one of the stars of this year's Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater, with designs to suit almost any home.

And whether you choose a classic or contemporary style, there are practical benefits as well – they are easy to keep clean and during the winter they will certainly help you cut your heating bill.

"Window shutters can transform any room and they give a stylish touch and key feature to your home," said Kevin Addington, of Diamond Shutters.

"They are child-friendly, far more hard-wearing than blinds and they are simple to keep clean – an enormous benefit for those who suffer allergies. Shutters are a contemporary alternative to curtains, offering light and privacy."

Diamond Shutters offers a wide range to suit almost every interior.

"All our window shutters are totally maintenance-free and all our products have a full three-year guarantee for your peace of mind," said Addington.

■ **For more information, visit www.diamond-shutters.com.**

Sea views as standard with this exclusive development

THREE new-build properties with far-reaching views over the Whitstable coastline have been launched for sale by estate agency Connells.

The exclusive, gated development has been built by Groombridge Properties, which produces executive-style homes using traditional and contemporary materials.

The development is on Joy Lane at Turner's Point, one of the most sought-after residential areas of Whitstable.

Owners are just a short walk from the beach and a short drive from the town centre.

The five/six bedroom properties are individually designed to a high specification and measure about 2,500 sq ft.

Each property has large balconies from which owners can enjoy the panoramic views over the sea, as well as landscaped gardens.

Ian Hatchard, from Connells, said: "We are delighted to be marketing this superb collection of contemporary properties.

"The new homes would suit buyers wanting spacious and attractive living accommodation in a prestigious location."

The homes have been finished to a very high specification with accommodation spaced over three storeys in plots two and three and four storeys in plot one. Features include oak-veneered and inlaid flush doors, timber staircases with glass balustrades, underfloor heating and a heat-recovery extract system to all rooms, providing fresh air without the need to open windows.

"This development is very special and the developer has put a lot of care and thought into the design and feel of each new home. I am sure the properties will be snapped up quickly by buyers wanting a bespoke and exclusive new home.

"We are now registering interest and taking reservations, so anyone interested in finding out more should contact us now," said Hatchard.

The properties are priced at £895,000.

■ **For further information about this development or to view the homes, you can phone Connells Canterbury office on 01227 764720 or visit the website at www.connells.co.uk.**

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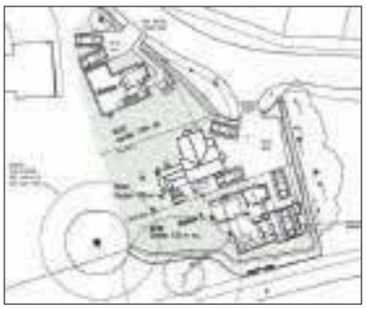
If you are thinking of selling a property which requires renovation or refurbishment and are unsure whether to use a traditional estate agent or to sell via auction, then Chapel Place Limited could provide the answer as we have an extensive database of suitable purchasers looking for suitable projects providing you with a quicker transaction than you would expect from an estate agent whilst achieving a better return than you would expect via auction.

Do you own a freehold commercial building or site that you are contemplating selling? Before instructing an agent to act on your behalf why not contact Chapel Place Limited as on many occasions we have been able to source a purchaser from our database who will pay above market value if they believe it offers development potential.



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Guide Price £395,000
Site with planning for the refurbishment of the existing 3 bedroom property and the construction of two detached houses

Orpington
Guide Price £350,000
Former pub available for sale either unconditionally or subject to planning for conversion or redevelopment of the whole site

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Looks aren't everything as Ibiza gets a supermini makeover

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI i30

Price: £14,495-£20,295
Driving appeal: ★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Ford Focus

Hyundai wows with a vowel in pursuit of Europe's top guns

HYUNDAI'S rise to become the world's fourth largest motor vehicle group actually doesn't have the headline power of Apple computing's rebirth and ascension.

But they do have a small thing in common; both have used the 'i' vowel to signal a changed direction, paving the way to new growth.

Apple, of course, added an 'i' to the iMac, iPod, iPhone and now the iPad – all game-changers in the electronics theatre.

Korea's Hyundai, rather cheekily perhaps, adopted 'i' to prefix a new and very different series of mainstream models to replace rather lacklustre predecessors like the Accent and Elantra.

The first arrived some five years ago as the i30 five-door family hatchback. It wasn't quite in the league of an Apple mould-breaker, but it certainly showed Hyundai could now offer more style, quality and driver enjoyment without jettisoning the brand's value standards.

Other 'i' models followed and none have disappointed – the i10 city car has become a best-seller, while the recent i40 addition is a stunning threat to establishment family models such as the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Insignia.

The other scary thing for western brands is that while they generally follow a seven-year model replacement strategy Asian marques, including Hyundai, go for five.

So the second generation i30 is now with us, and it's another 'i' jump up the ladder if you like, with sharper styling and an interior far superior in style, design and quality to its worthy predecessor.

It's also closer than ever to the high-quality handling of the Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra, to the point where Hyundai's famous five-year/unlimited mileage warranty, can clinch the deal in favour of the Korean car.

It's a powerful persuader anyway in current times; a sign of Hyundai's confidence in its products and, for owners who keep a car for three years, it becomes a valuable asset to the resale value, while those who buy a car for life can be confident they are buying something expected to last.

Sensible buyers will also note that all 1.6CRDi diesel manual versions come with Hyundai's Blue Drive eco technologies as standard, offering road tax exempt CO_2 emissions of 97g/km on the lowest output 110PS (109bhp) version, plus pound-stretching economy without compromising on low down power output.

Four main trim levels are offered – Classic, Active, Style and Style Nav – with an entry level 1.4-litre petrol option from £14,495 as well as the diesel (from £16,895) mentioned earlier.

As ever, standard spec is generous, but mid-range Active trim (from £15,595) includes alloys, cruise control, rear parking sensors and Hyundai's new dynamic Flex Steer system, giving the driver the option of three settings for the wheel: Comfort, Normal and Sport.

ON THE TRAIL: This new-look i30 follows the standards set by Hyundai's i40 model combining style, design and quality to surpass what has gone before

DON'T LIKE

...the fact Hyundai remains a highly underrated brand in the UK. Is it badge snobbery or a simple lack of awareness?

NOT SURE

...the Korean marque will yet be a match on handling against established rivals like the Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra.

REALLY LIKE

...how Hyundai has mastered the art of matching exterior and interior style and quality in this latest generation of models, started by the i40.

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MOTORING

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Is Smart still thinking smart?

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SMART posed serious questions of all of us when it launched its unique two-seat city car in 2000.

How many of us truly need more than two seats and how much longer can we afford the fuel for that wasted space?

Plus, can you cut a dash with a car that is pretty much a small cube on four wheels?

And the verdict on both is still with the jury.

Of course, despite appearances, the Smart is no longer the same car – a new and fractionally longer second generation version arrived in 2007, and righted several of the wrongs found in its predecessor.

But, since it would be akin to re-inventing the wheel, the Smart's styling is likely to remain a case of wrapping two people with space for some luggage and shopping.

That doesn't stop Smart – a sister brand to Mercedes-Benz – regularly re-packaging the range though, so we have a revised line-up due next month including tasty specials to get would-be customers into showrooms, such as the cool Boxfresh limited edition I've been driving this week.

It's been outfitted in conjunction with the fashion label of the same name, and just 55 will be sold – each has its number displayed on the dashboard – and there will probably be no shortage of takers.

The Boxfresh looks sharp with its sumptuous tan leather seats and other hide trappings inside, while the all-black exterior looks extra mean with 15-inch glossy black alloys courtesy of Merc styling house Brabus.

If that's not your thing then there are other new specials including the black and orange Nightorange, ICE and Pink Passion.

But these don't come cheap; the Boxfresh sells for £11,700, which is a lot more than the ten grand for the normal Passion coupé model with the same 71bhp output from the Smart's standard 1.0 litre petrol engine – there is also a 54bhp diesel from £10,400.

That's the point of such specials though; they give Smart something to shout about and make would-be buyers re-evaluate the little car.

It's not without its faults: it can be noisy; the gearbox can be jerky in full auto mode – outside of town I prefer using manual changes via the stick or steering wheel paddles; and you sometimes feel the door handles will scrape the road on the corners.

But as a cost-effective city runabout or second/third car, the Smart is in a class of its own.

Both occupants have lots of room, sit comfortably high up and have sensible space for weekend luggage, shopping and even a small dog – but forget about golf clubs.

Whenever I drive one, though, I'm asked: "But do you feel safe in it? It's just so small."

Close inspection shows the car is built around a massively strong cage – Smart calls it the Tridion Safety Cell – and the marque made a TV ad once showing a Smart smashed full on by a demolition wrecking ball and then the occupant walking away unharmed.

The advertising standards people would never allow that to be fake so, yes, I do think it's safe.

My advice though is look at the fancy specials and then pick the cheapest petrol model (from £9,200) you will need; the diesel is too heavy and jerky and doesn't offer much better fuel consumption and the cheapest petrol versions are road tax exempt too.

And buy the Smart for economy convenience, and easy parking rather than the driving experience.

It now has competition though from Toyota's provocatively named IQ, which is only slightly longer, carries another adult and a child and feels more like a normal car.

SMART FORTWO 71 PASSION BOXFRESH: £19,500

BRIGHTEST OF SPARKS: Smart has released new models including the Nightorange, pictured, ICE and Pink Passion, which highlight the model as a perfect city runabout or ideal second family car

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★
Value:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

An invitation from Nissan

NISSAN has shown confidence in its Sunderland plant by commiting £125 million to build a new supermini contender there.

Backed also by a £9.3 million Government grant, it will be produced alongside the Qashqai and Juke crossovers and should create 2,000 jobs.

Unveiled in concept form with the name Invitation, the new car should hit showrooms in next year.

Passat ready for rough ride

VOLKSWAGEN has got tough with its Passat estate by creating a high-riding 4x4 model with 'ruggedised' body sections, able to go places standard models can't.

Order books are open for the Passat Alltrack – the car hits showrooms on May 28.

Choice comprises two diesels: a138bhp 2.0-litre with six-speed manual 'box (£28,475) and a 178bhp with twin-clutch DSG auto/manual (£31,025).

...and Peugeot follows suit?

NOT to be outdone, Peugeot also has a rugged version of its elegant 508 estate available to order now and arriving in May.

But the all-wheel drive of the £33,695 508RXH is more unusual in using the French marque's pioneering diesel-electric hybrid powertrain: a 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel driving the front wheels, paired with a 37bhp electric motor for the rear.

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2002 (52) MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSOR SE Auto metallic blue, two owners from new with service history, all usual extras, 1796cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£2,795**

2007 (56) FORD MONDEO LX 5 door Hatchback, blue, nice family hatchback with all usual extra's, 1999cc, petrol engine with automatic transmission **£2,495**

2001 (Y) LANDROVER FREELANDER ES with all usual extras, well serviced vehicle with leather interior, 1798cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,995**

2004 (54) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5 door Hatchback, black with service history and all usual extra's, 1597cc engine with manual transmission **£1,995**

2002 (02) MICRA Automatic 5 door Hatchback, two owners, from new with all usual extras, 998cc, petrol, engine, with rare automati transmission **£1,695**

2002 (02) CITROEN PICASSO 5 door Estate, purple, very useful MPV with all usual extra's, 1749cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,495**

2002 (52) VAUXHALL OMEGA CD 4 door Saloon, silver, luxury motoring with a host of extra's, 2197cc, petrol engine with automatic transmission **£1,195**

1995 (M) TOYOTA LEXUS GS 300 4 door Saloon metallic silver, two previous owners from new with main dealer service history. Every conceivable extra. 2954 cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£995**

1999 (V) VAUXHALL ASTRA LS Turbo Diesel 5 door Estate car, very usefull diesel estate car with all usual extra's, 1700cc turbo diesel engine with manual transmission **£995**

1999 (T) MGF CONVERTIBLE metallic blue, with all usual extras, part exchange to clear, with a 1597cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£895**

1998 (S) BMW 318Ti 3 door Hatchback metallic grey with all usual extras, two lady owners from new, part exchange to clear, 1895cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£795**

2000 (W) FORD MONDEO LX Automatic 5 Door Hatchback, light metallic green, two owners, from new with all usual extras, 18bbcc, petrol engine, WT, automatic transmission **£795**

2000 (V) PEUGEOT 306 5 door Hatchback, metallic blue, part exchange to clear, 1596cc, petrol engine with manual transmission **£795**

2000 (X) KIA CLARUS Executive 4 door Saloon black, with all usual extras, 1998cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£695**

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Model shown is the i30 Active 1.4 at £15,595 in Creamy White solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable. VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Car Financial Services RH1 1SR. The offer, finance and saving is subject to availability and is only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 3 March and 31 March 2012, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offer is not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/triple5 or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai New Generation i30 range: Urban 29.7 (9.5) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 41.5 (6.8) – 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 159 – 97 g/km.

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SAAB 9-3 1.8i, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2005 54 Reg , 85,581 miles, Metallic SILVER, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steel wheels, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cloth seat trim, Solid Paint, Steering wheel rake adjustment. Insurance Group:11 ..... **£3,495**

SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2002 02 Reg , 101,420 miles, Black, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Reverse parking aid, Electrically adjustable drivers seat, Electrically adjustable passenger seat, Heated front seat. Insurance Group:17 ..... **£2,795**

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Rate of Interest	9.72% fixed

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10.9% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
48 monthly payments of	£225.00
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Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
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Amount of credit	£9,000.00
Representative APR	10.9%
Rate of Interest	9.64% fixed

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Period of Hire 34 Mths

11.7% APR

Period of Hire	34 months
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Option to purchase fee**	£79.00
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Rate of Interest	9.22% fixed

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Period of Hire 48 Mths

11.5% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
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Deposit	£500.00
Retail cash price	£6,500.00
Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
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06 06	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSI SE 5Dr	Silver	28,000	£6,450
10 10	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 16v Club 5Dr MPV	Lancelot	22,750	£6,500
07 07	Honda Accord 2.0i VTEC SE Saloon	Silver	30,000	£6,950
09 09	Vauxhall Tigra 1.4i 16v Exclusiv 2Dr Cab	Black	30,500	£7,000
09 09	Smart ForTwo 1.0 Passion 2Dr Cab	Blue	4,700	£7,000
11 11	Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 5Dr Hatch	Black	12,370	£7,000
08 08	Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v (150PS) Design Est	Blue	37,140	£7,000
06 56	Honda Civic 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5Dr	Black	63,250	£7,450
09 58	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC SE 5Dr	Black	43,670	£7,450
07 57	Vauxhall Astra 1.6T SRi Sport 16v 3Dr Hatch	Red	65,890	£7,500
08 57	Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v (150PS) Elite Est	Silver	53,720	£7,500
08 58	Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T Spirit 5Dr	Black	33,305	£7,500
09 58	Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 HDi 90 Sport	Lunar	51,000	£7,500
10 59	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec (82 PS) 3Dr Hatch	Avalon	7,810	£7,500
07 07	Mazda 5 2.0D Sport 5-Dr MPV	Grey	49,780	£7,500
08 58	Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 86 Dynamique 3Dr Hatch	Platinum	33,900	£7,500
09 59	Smart ForTwo 0.8 cdi (54BHP) Pulse 2Dr Cab	Black	21,500	£7,500
08 58	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5Dr Hatch	Silver	30,990	£7,500
10 10	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V SE 5Dr Hatch	Black	9,400	£8,000
09 58	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec (82 PS) 3Dr Hatch	Avalon	28,200	£8,000
09 09	Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 HDi 90 S	Blue	47,465	£8,000
07 57	Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D T3-S 5Dr	Silver	50,770	£8,000

Reg	Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
06 56	BMW 1 Series 1.6 116i ES 5Dr Hatch	Red	47,268	£8,000
08 58	Mazda 6 1.8 TS 5-Dr Hatchback	Blue	30,935	£8,000
08 08	Skoda Fabia 3 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5Dr Hatch	Magic	44,900	£8,000
08 08	Alfa Romeo 147 1.9 JTDM Sport Q2 3Dr Hatch	Grey	30,300	£8,000
08 58	Mazda 6 2.0TD TS 5-Dr Estate	Silver	61,720	£8,000
08 08	Ford Mondeo 2.0 Titanium 5Dr Hatch	Black	51,675	£8,000
09 58	Toyota Auris 2.0 D-4D T Spirit 5Dr	Blue	45,835	£8,450
06 06	Honda Civic 2.2 i-CTDi ES 5Dr	Silver	32,350	£8,450
09 58	Toyota Auris 2.0 D-4D TR 5Dr	Grey	42,460	£8,500
09 09	Volvo S40 2.0 D SE 4-Dr Saloon	Blue	76,150	£8,700
09 58	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES 5Dr	Violet	29,550	£8,950
10 60	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V SE 5Dr Hatch	Black	12,600	£9,000
08 57	Renault Clio 2.0 VVT sport 197 3Dr Hatch	Red	7,520	£9,000
09 59	Citroen C4 1.6 HDi 16v VTR Plus 5Dr Hatch	Silver	8,000	£9,000
08 58	Toyota Avensis 2.2 D-4D T180 5Dr	Fern	54,250	£9,000
10 10	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5Dr	Red	32,000	£9,450
06 06	Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 CRTD CDX 5Dr	Gun	75,040	£9,500
09 59	Fiat 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3Dr Hatch	White	4,835	£9,500
08 58	Toyota Verso 2.2 D-4D SR 5Dr	Silver	33,450	£9,950
11 60	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC Si 5Dr	Black	9,000	£9,950
11 60	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC Si 5Dr	Black	9,500	£9,950
08 58	SAAB 9-3 VECTOR Sport 1.9 TiD 150 ANNIV 4Dr	Grey	20,145	£10,000
07 57	Mini Cooper S 1.6 (175BHP) 3Dr Hatch	Grey	25,780	£10,000

Reg	Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
10 59	Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec-S (120 PS) 3Dr Hatch	White	16,200	£10,000
09 58	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v (160PS) SRi 5Dr	Black	29,395	£10,500
10 10	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5Dr	Blue	14,978	£10,950
10 60	Honda Civic 1.4 i-VTEC Si 5Dr	Red	7,750	£10,950
10 60	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5Dr	Blue	10,950	£10,950
07 07	Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC ES 5Dr	Grey	47,844	£11,450
10 10	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi (160PS) SRi 5Dr Hatch	Silver	34,000	£11,500
10 10	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v (160PS) SRi	Silver	45,585	£11,500
08 08	Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 CDTi LTX 7 Seat 5Dr	Green	43,898	£11,500
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi ES 5Dr	Grey	72,590	£11,950
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5Dr	Black	53,450	£11,950
09 09	Mini Clubman 1.6 Cooper S 5Dr Est	Silver	24,750	£12,000
08 08	Volvo V50 2.0 D Sport (R-Design) 5Dr Est	Blue	46,825	£12,000
07 57	Audi A4 2.0 TDI (140 PS) S-Line	Silver	40,550	£12,000
08 08	Audi A3 Sportback 2.0 TDi S Tronic	Grey	38,000	£12,950
11 60	Honda Jazz Hybrid 1.3 IMA HS 5Dr	Blue	6,500	£13,950
09 59	Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Ghia (140 PS) 5Dr MPV	Silver	40,945	£14,000
09 09	Audi A3 Sportback 1.9 TDIe	Black	26,340	£14,000
11 11	Honda Jazz Hybrid 1.3 IMA HS 5Dr	Green	9,500	£14,450
10 10	Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC EX GT 5Dr	Black	18,500	£14,450
11 11	Honda Insight 1.3 IMA EX 5Dr	Metal	8,500	£14,950
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC ES 5Dr	Black	44,280	£14,950
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5Dr	Silver	14,550	£14,950

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Main Dealer Servicing

Dealers bank on peace on mind

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER buying a house, buying a car is usually the second biggest investment we make.

To protect that outlay, it is vital the service schedule is kept up to date and repairs carried out promptly and competently.

The best guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice, so EU legislation in 2002 made it illegal for manufacturers to insist on cars being maintained by their franchise network to keep the guarantee intact.

It also meant that manufacturers had to make vehicle diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

Nevertheless, many car buyers still prefer main dealer franchising and also think it is the best way to protect the part exchange or second-hand value of the car, since used car buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main dealer service history on sophisticated models like the Peugeot 508, pictured above. Sceptics might argue, though, that this perceived premium is wiped out by paying higher main dealer service costs.

It is a point, but manufacturers and their main dealer networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation.

Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the economic downturn, dealers have chosen to be more competitive on servicing, cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service and ancillaries like tyres and exhausts – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

They have also banked on the perception that only a main dealer's service technicians can know its cars as well they do.

And happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new car models on the showroom floor – hoping that, one day soon, they will buy again.

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*Model shown Zafira Tourer SE 1.4i 16v VVT Turbo (140ps) £23,665 with optional panoramic windscreen/panoramic sunroof £600, pearlescent paint £495 and 18" wheels £310, premium forward lighting pack £790, and Navi 600 sat nav £855. Total cost £26,715. Offer available for registrations between 01.03.12 and 11.04.12. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

Fix your servicing costs to help stop the shocks

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the biggest headaches for car-owners, particularly in tougher economic times like now, is a shock garage bill.

Fixed price deals though, cut out the shocks and make it easier to control a motoring budget.

The idea took off first with premium brands whose service costs were perceived as pricey, and taking advantage of an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the future value of the car by servicing outside the dealer network.

More mainstream brands have adopted the same tactic though, to counter ambitious independent and quick-fit operators, only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work.

The plans are also flexible – some are even free. Initially, they were to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with one-off deals or monthly instalment options, recognising many drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

Best advice is to ask your main dealer about the menu of schemes available and get advice on the pros and cons of each one.

The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective, but necessary part of the month-by-month/annual cost of running a car.

HELP: Alfa Romeo offers service deals on its models like the Giulietta while Vauxhall has its own MasterFit technicians

Vauxhall's MasterFit scheme has just launched a Fixed Price Service for only £99 on any Vauxhall vehicles aged three years and older.

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To quick-fit or not... that is the question

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE is always going to be a temptation to go to the local 'quick/fast-fit' centre when replacing motoring consumables.

These specialist chains have boomed as drivers try to save money on exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been idle, reckoning that if car owners are still using their service bays, then they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability and the knowledge this will be logged on the dealer/manufacturer database

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has also encouraged owners to have bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise's own panel beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing; this means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding any motoring indigestion, when the bill is presented. Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via finance or servicing schemes covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme with a tariff of cheaper prices to keep owners of older and lower value models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector, simply because they feel their car is no longer worth paying top servicing prices for.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main dealer service centres; dealers are much more aware many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally too so customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW: If your new car, like this Skoda Yeti, suddenly needs a replacement tyre or exhaust, you might find that your main dealer can be just as inexpensive as a fast-fit centre... as is evidenced by these two Mazda MX-5s getting the quick-fit treatment at a spotlessly-clean Mazda dealership

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CARE AND ATTENTION: New cars like the Citroën C3 and Hyundai i40 are more reliable and safer than ever before but still need looking after

Car care is where it's at

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MODERN cars are miles ahead of predecessors built just 15 years ago, in terms of reliability, comfort and driving pleasure.

The downside though is that keeping your car reliable, maintained and safe is now best left to the professionals.

Unfortunately, since this costs money, owners often ignore problems for too long and the servicing schedule is stretched beyond the recommended limit, perhaps endangering the occupants and certainly undermining the warranty and the provenance of the vehicle when they come to sell.

So, follow these tips:

- Maintain the service record to the letter and make sure the servicing book is stamped up, although some marques are switching to centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- **Read the warranty document thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls to endanger your guarantee.**
- Act on recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- **Don't rely on the MOT as insurance for the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed with flying colours – problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.**
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- **Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, including the correct pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's side door frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, replace at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions compromise grip.**
- Keep oil, windscreen washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, checking on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on.
- **Replace wiper blades. There's no point in keeping the washer topped up if blades are worn or split. But if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.**
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main dealer servicing, you don't have to use the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.

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RUGBY

Maidstone close in on Twickenham final as president looks to move into a new era

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

MAIDSTONE Rugby Club are just one game from Twickenham, after winning the regional final of the RFU Senior Vase at Newmarket last Saturday.

The county town side won a tense encounter 18-15 to set up a national semi-final with Wells, which will take place at The Mote on Saturday April 7.

It's the third time in as many years that a Kent team has reached a national semi-final.

In 2010, Tonbridge Juddians fell at the final hurdle in the Intermediate Cup, losing 19-13 to Old Redcliffians while last year Aylesford Bulls beat Berry Hill 13-0 before losing the final of the same competition to Stoke.

Maidstone trailed 8-0 early on, but Jamie Smith chased down a grubber kick to make it 8-5 at half-time, and Hayden Mitchell and Ollie Newton scored tries early in the second-half to give the visitors the lead.

With Luke Debnam in the sin bin a penalty try saw Newmarket draw level, but Leo Fedorcio kicked a penalty with three minutes remaining and Maidstone ran down the clock from the restart.

"I think we made harder work than we should have done, but cup matches are great levellers," said Maidstone's president Bob Beney.

"I think it would detract from Newmarket to say we should have put it away, but it was more difficult than it could have been."

Although they didn't receive a cup for winning, it's the first time Maidstone have won a final in a quarter of a century, since picking up the County Cup in 1987.

Yet the euphoria has been tempered by the knowledge that Wells, from Somerset, represent a serious obstacle.

"West country rugby is traditionally very hard so we're not taking anything for granted, but it promises to be a very big day and we should get quite a big crowd there with it being Easter Saturday," Beney said.

"We expect Wells will bring quite a few up with them. For their regional final they had 800 people, so we'll be looking for 500 at the Mote.

"There'll be nerves and excitement, but that's all part of the fun I guess."

Maidstone are hoping the run will help them emerge from one of the darkest eras in their 132-year history.

Although Matt Iles was cleared of a charge of eye-gouging, following an incident that left Gravesend's Clarence Harding blind in 2010, the RFU ruled that a Maidstone player had committed the act deliberately.

As the player's identity could not be proved the RFU held the club responsible, fining them £2,000, docking them 50 points and effectively relegating them to London 3 South East this season, the lowest level they have played at since the league system was introduced.

Picture: BOB HAYTON

FINAL STEP: Maidstone will face a battle with Wells, from Somerset, for place in the RFU Senior Vase

The affair did lasting damage to the club's reputation and standing and remains a highly-sensitive taboo at the club.

Beney would only say: "It's been a time of transition," stressing they wanted to leave the past in the past.

"There are lots of very positive things going on and something like this gives added impetus to show that we just want to move on and move back to where we were. Something like this is a great fillip," he said.

Maidstone are also hoping there will soon be some movement on their plans to redevelop their ground, which were first unveiled in 2005.

"We're hoping for some positive news in the future," Beney said.

"One of the problems is our facilities are so poor which has always stymied our growth."

MOTORSPORT

Brands delight Olympic Torch will burn up circuit en route to London

THE Olympic Torch will tour the Brands Hatch circuit this summer as part of its journey through the county en route to the Olympic Stadium.

The full route of the torch relay was unveiled this week, with Kent seeing the flame arrive briefly in Tunbridge Wells on July 17, before it returns for two days in the county on July 18-19, leaving the north west of Kent on July 20.

And track chiefs at Brands were delighted to receive confirmation this week the torch would tour the circuit on July 20,

The circuit will be both a training camp for athletes and used as a venue for the Paralympic road cycling events.

Lord Coe, chairman of the London Organising Committee for the Games, said at the time he was delighted the circuit would be hosting such a high-profile event during the Paralympics.

He said: "This will help us extend the Games outside London and give spectators and athletes the chance to discover yet another stunning part of our country."

The torch visit will also coincide with the opening Friday of the summer round of the MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship.

With an exciting championship in full swing, plus two local heroes in Shakey Byrne and reigning champion Tommy Hill, the ceremony is sure to be played out in front of a busy crowd.

PIT STOP: Brands will host Olympic Torch in July

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Exiles come up a touch short, but learn vital lesson from their Olympian efforts

THERE was an encouraging start to the pre-season for the Kent Exiles when they pushed the London Olympians all the way during a four-hour practice session at Orpington at the weekend.

The Olympians finished as narrow 6-0 winners having scored the crucial touch-down via an interception return, but for the Exiles the score wasn't important.

Head coach Tony Bainbridge has recruited more than 20 new players for the Exiles 2012 season and wanted to see how they would fare against top-class opposition.

"The Olympians play in the Premiership, the division above us, so I knew they would give us some tough competition," he said.

"But I also knew they would be very well coached, so we could expect a great learning session, and that's exactly how it turned out".

A number of players staked a claim for starting spots for the season proper, which begins on April 15 when the Exiles travel to the Hampshire Thrashers.

The following week sees the Kent derby with the East Kent Mavericks

The Exiles have one more friendly, with the Peterborough Saxons next Sunday.

Anyone wanting to get involved should contact them via their website – www.kentexiles.co.uk.

CLOSE CALL: Kent Exiles (blue) had good run out

CRICKET

Oyster boys dazzle to take home the cup from Lord's

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

WHITSTABLE Cricket Club have been crowned National Indoor six-a-side champions of England, after a resounding victory in Sunday's final at Lord's.

The oyster boys beat Blaydon by seven wickets in the final, despite being unused to the conditions at the St John's Wood ground.

Manager Bruce Campbell explained: "Where we play at the indoor hall in Canterbury if you hit the wall you can run, but at Lord's they had nets so rather than rebounding it dropped like a stone really."

Despite that disadvantage Whitstable were far too strong for their opponents.

They qualified for finals day by winning their local section and then beating the Essex side Buckhurst Hill in a play-off.

Paired with Poole Town in the semi-finals Whitstable won the toss and asked Poole to bat. The Dorset team made 106-5 from their 12 overs, a total Whitstable passed with two overs to spare for the loss of just one wicket.

Max Campbell and Liam Tegg both made 27 before they were obliged to retire; competition rules stating that batsmen have to step aside after passing 25, although they would have been allowed to return in the event of a batting collapse.

The final saw an equally convincing win against Blaydon from Durham.

Once again Whitstable asked their rivals to bat having won the toss.

CLOSE: Whitstable's Byron Gould appeals for a run-out during last weekend's final at Lord's

Blaydon would have chosen to bat themselves, but they were stifled by an excellent fielding display which saw Byron Gould run out their opener Peter Howells.

Josh Gould then had Graeme Bridge lbw and after a worrying stand some tight bowling at the death and two more run outs saw Blaydon all out for just 91 from 11.5 overs, with Max Campbell taking 2-25 and Josh Gould 1-16.

Whistable made a rapid start to the run chase, smashing 46 from their first three overs and they coasted home with nearly three full overs to spare.

"It was a superb day," Bruce Campbell said. "The ECB ran the show really, they they looked after us very well and even offered to book hotels for us on the Saturday night, which I thought might not be a good idea."

CRICKET

Jones shines too late in bid to secure World Twenty20 slot

GERAINT Jones' attempt to lead Papua New Guinea to the ICC World Twenty20 finals ended in failure, but the Kent wicket-keeper did star in Tuesday's win over Denmark in Abu Dhabi.

PNG faced a play-off for seventh place after beating Nepal and Hong Kong, but losing to Holland and Bermuda in the group stages of the qualifying tournament.

Their final game saw Jones hit a quickfire 46 from 33 balls to post the highest score in the PNG innings.

PNG won the toss and opted to bat, but after Jones perished, stumped off Bashir Shah having already smashed two sixes and three fours, their innings collapsed from 116-4 to a modest-looking 148 all out, the final wicket falling with the last ball of the innings.

Jones took a vital catch during the Danish reply, removing their highest scorer Michael Pedersen just as the Danes were threatening to chase down a target they eventually missed by 14 runs.

Jones, who was born in PNG, raised in Australia and qualified to play for England through his Welsh parents, said he was "delighted" with the way his second international career had gone.

JONES: Enjoyed the experience

"These guys has been fantastic," he said. "They are showing how cricket should be played in the right spirit and I love the smile on their faces when they are playing. It has been really refreshing for me."

BOXING

Inspiration for Hollywood to headline at Priestfield

THE real life boxers whose story inspired the Mark Wahlberg film The Fighter will be at the Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham and O'Neills Gym in Margate this May.

Micky Ward and Dicky Eklund, portrayed by Wahlberg and Christian Bale in the film, will be taking part in An Audience with the Real Fighters on the May Bank Holiday.

The Gillingham date is one of three in Kent, Essex and London.

The film won two Academy awards and three Golden Globes last year and the duo are now coming to the UK to help raise money for the charity OneLife UK with specialises in coaching young people.

The brothers will be visiting a number of boxing clubs to train and help young fighters during their tour, including O'Neill's, and the trip will bring back memories for both men.

"I'm really excited to be coming back to London," Ward said. " I have always had a lot of love for the UK as that is where I won my WBU Championship Light Welterweight Belt. It's one of my favourite places."

STAR: Wahlberg portrayed Ward

His older brother Eklund added: "I made some good boxing friends in the UK and can't wait to catch up on what's going on there.

"The Brits are good people. I'm really looking forward to it.

"I'm ready to go and hope the UK is ready for me and to hear the tale of when I knocked down Sugar Ray..... over a cuppa!"

Tickets are available from www.touchglovepromotions.co.uk or 01277 410167.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH FRED ATKINS

Oceans apart on the airwaves

THE revered American Football coach Marv Levy used to ask his players: "Where would you rather be than right here, right now?" in the moments before kick-off and this was the question I asked myself at East Brighton Park last Saturday, as I prepared to co-commentate for Maidstone United's in-house radio station on their away game with Whitehawk.

Three miles to the north lies Sussex University and just as East Anglia was once famous for churning out Amis, Motion, Ishiguro and McEwan, so the Sussex class of 95 turned out a golden generation in the field of sports journalism.

Of my contemporaries, one was the son of a world-famous journalist, a high-profile left-wing campaigner who has dedicated his life to exposing corrupt governments and shaming evil corporations and who must, therefore, have been delighted at his offspring's obsession with Manchester United and subsequent career at their in-house magazine.

Another, the only student on campus ever to wear a baseball cap, went on to work for 90 Minutes magazine, where his role in life was to make references to Scooby Doo every week.

A third graduated via Cement World to the tabloids, where he forged a career out of doorstepping people like Bruno Brookes and lastly there was my best friend Tim Stannard, a man who accidentally found himself working for the English-language section of Real Madrid TV.

Tim spent Sunday night commentating live from the Bernebau on Real Madrid v Malaga, to an audience well into the thousands.

Midway through the first half at Whitehawk, we discovered that Stones Live had been scuppered by a technical fault, and that our 20 listeners (one of whom was in Bermuda) couldn't even hear us.

We soldiered on, recording commentary for Stones TV, listened to by a trio of Whitehawk fans sitting in front of us.

It wasn't an unpleasant experience. Whitehawk is a part of Brighton that no student would ever dream of visiting, an estate with a reputation that makes Mangravet sound like Belgravia, yet their ground has possibly the most spectacular location of any in the south of England.

Carved into the South Downs, it lies in the bottom of a valley with sweeping views from all sides.

At Chatham you get an uplifting view of the cemetery, from Ramsgate you can see Manston airport.

Does the view matter? Not really, but when the game proves uneventful the eyes and mind wander.

As we broadcast to our three captive listeners in the dying moments of the second half, I asked myself Marv's question. "Where would I rather be, than right here, right now?"

Would I honestly have swapped all this to be at the Bernebau?

Quite frankly, yes.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

*Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Offers are available for registrations between 20.12.11 and 02.04.12 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Offers are available for registrations between 20.12.11 and 02.04.12 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. #Model shown Meriva SE starts from £18,230